



State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
 Legislative Update– November 6, 2008

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**California State Budget**

Earlier today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called a legislative special session and announced his budget proposals to address our State’s budget shortfall of \$11.2 billion for the current fiscal year. His budget proposals call to (1) Close the \$11.2 billion shortfall; (2) Stabilize the housing market; (3) Stimulate the economy; and (4) Fix the unemployment insurance fund. The Governor proposed to achieve this through a combination of \$4.5 billion in reductions and \$4.7 billion in revenue increases.

Below is a breakdown of proposed cuts that have significant impact on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Many of these proposals are cuts that the legislature rejected earlier this year. The Council also opposed these cuts.

**2008-2009 Special Session Proposed Cuts**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Proposed Cut</b>	<b>Date Effective</b>
Medi-Cal	Eliminate optional benefits for adult dental, chiropractic, incontinence creams and washes, acupuncture, audiology, speech therapy, optometry/optometrists, optician/optical lab services, podiatry and psychology services.	December 1, 2008
	Reinstate share of Cost for Medi-Cal for individuals with incomes over the SSI/SSP limits	December 1, 2008

Regional Centers	Discount payments to regional center services provides by 3%	December 1, 2008
	Suspending reporting requirements for staff salary schedules and contract expenditures and 1:66 coordinator-to-consumer ratio.	December 1, 2008
SSI/SSP	Reduce grants for individuals from \$870 to \$830 and couples from \$1524 to \$1407	March 1, 2009
Cash Assistance to Immigrant Program	Eliminate entire program	March 1, 2009
IHSS	Eliminate domestic and related services to individuals with a functional index score below 4	March 1, 2009
	State buy-out program for IHSS recipients whose Medi-Cal share of cost is higher than their IHSS share of cost on persons with the most severe needs	March 1, 2009
	Limit state participation in IHSS worker wages to state minimum wage plus \$0.60 per hour for benefits	March 1, 2009

If approved by the legislature, these proposed cuts will remain effective for 2009-2010 budget year.

In addition to the cuts above, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will make be reducing by 3% funding for “special projects”, which include the State Council’s Clients’ Rights Advocacy (CRA) Contract and Life Quality Assessment (LQA) Contract. Our understanding at this time is that the total amount of “special project” funding will be reduced by 3%. The Council Management Team will be meeting with DDS to discuss the potential impact to CRA and LQA. They will be providing updates as soon as more information is available.

Current Projects for DDS include:

- A. Information Technology Costs
  - a. Regional Center Application Support
  - b. Data Processing
- B. Clients’ Rights Advocacy Contract
- C. Life Quality Assessment Contract
- D. Direct Support Professional Training
- E. Office of Administrative Hearing Contract
- F. Wellness Projects
- G. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program
- H. Special Incident Reporting/Risk Assessment Contract
- I. Increased Access to Mental Health Services
- J. Sherry S. Court Case/Los Angeles County Hospital
- K. Movers Evaluation Contract
- L. Enhancing FFP, Phase II, Proposal C, Consultant
- M. University Enterprises, Inc.
- N. Affordable Housing
- O. Cost Containment
- P. Self-Directed Services: Training and Development
- Q. Agnews Closure: Technical Assistance on Housing Issue
- R. Evaluation of SB 962 Pilot

### **Next Steps**

In the upcoming weeks we can expect there to be budget hearings in both houses where the public will be able to provide comments on the

proposed cuts. The dates, times and locations for these hearings have not yet been determined.

In the mean time, Council staff will continue to gather information and send it out to the Council, Area Boards and Legislative Committees. Additionally, the State Budget is an agenda item at the upcoming Council meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. At that time, the Council will further discuss these cuts, their impact and take action.

I will continue to send out updates as I get more information.

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If you have any questions or need any more information please email me at [September.hargrove@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:September.hargrove@scdd.ca.gov) or call me at 916-322-6775. I will be sending these updates out regularly as I receive information that will impact the Council. If you have an issue or information that you would like me to research please let me know and I can get that information out to the committee.

Thank you.  
September Hargrove