



California's protection and advocacy system
www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org
Toll Free: (800) 776-5746
TTY: (800) 719-5798

#10: Fact Sheet on California's Budget Cuts to Developmental Disability Services & Programs - July 28, 2009

Maximizing Federal Financial Participation¹

The State Legislature required the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to reduce the DD Budget by 334 million dollars. As a result, there are changes to the types and amounts of services that regional centers can purchase. This fact sheet describes DDS's plan to apply for a Medicaid "state plan amendment."

The Lanterman Act requires regional centers to ensure the provision of a wide array of services to eligible people with developmental disabilities. California currently has a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver² for persons with developmental disabilities ("DD waiver"). This waiver allows California to receive federal funds for services that would otherwise be paid solely by the State. Some people are not eligible for the DD waiver, and some services are not covered by the waiver. Therefore, California pays 100% of the costs of regional center services for some consumers.

How the Law Changed

California plans to apply for a Medicaid "state plan amendment." This amendment would allow California to receive federal funds through the

¹ The changes are part of the Budget Trailer Bill (TBL) ABx4 9. You may find the law at http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx4_9_bill_20090728_chaptered.pdf. The changes affecting application for new federal Medicaid funding are found in Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 4688.3.

² California's Medicaid program is called "Medi-Cal."

Medicaid program for more regional center services. While this change might not affect the services available to consumers, it would save the state money.

If the federal government accepts the state's proposal, California plans to develop emergency regulations to develop rules for implementing the state plan amendment.