

A FUTURE IN PERIL

Why California is at A Crossroads in 2019 for Supports for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



More than 350,000 Californians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities live in California as our neighbors, classmates, coworkers, family, and friends; however, their support structure has been grossly underfunded and is failing. A state required Rate Study, due in March, 2019, may propose solutions that should be implemented; regardless,

immediate investment of 8% rate increase is needed this year.



This year alone, more than 15,000 new individuals with IDD are expected to require services under the state's famed Lanterman Act. At the same time, direct support staff are quitting the field or working multiple jobs due to poverty level wages; essential programs are closing throughout the state; and individuals are forced to live with inadequate supports or without supports at all.

SO WHAT?

5726 Direct Support Professionals In 50 Counties Answered...

42% Have Children on Medi-Cal	20% Receive Public Food Assistance	34% Work 20 Hours or More At Second Job
36% Are On Medi-Cal	27% Are Single Mothers	82% Are Women

509 Service Provider Organizations Answered...

45% Are Turning Away or Placing On Waiting Lists Individuals Who Have Been Referred by Their Regional Centers	49% Report Downsizing Program Capacity or Closing Programs Due to Deficits In Funding	67% Have Eliminated or Reduced Required Employee Qualifications in an Effort to Maintain Sufficient Staff to Serve Consumers.
---	---	---

All 21 Regional Centers Answered...

4803 Beds Lost Between 2011-2018 Because 928 Homes Closed

4999 Slots Lost Between 2011-2018 Because 94 Work/Day Programs Closed



Instead, the state should invest to create job training opportunities, community integration programs, parent support, and a livable wage for the approximately 150,000 direct support professionals whose job is supporting Californians with IDD.

Let us be clear---our system is in crisis and is falling apart rapidly, and there is a direct impact on people with IDD, their families, and the workforce, which is predominantly non-white women.

“Our son, David, has autism and significant difficulties with language and needs 24-hour staff support. In the last 27 months David has had 10 different support staff. For obvious reasons, this is not an ideal situation, and recruiting for David can be challenging due to the difficulties of communicating with him. Given the low wage rate with little opportunity for advancement, finding a higher paying job is always a prime motivation for staff to move on. There is always uncertainty about when the situation will resolve, and uncertainty is difficult for David and the rest of our family. The reassurance that would come with improvements for our direct support staff and knowing that the system is stable is priceless.

- Betsy Katz
Mom and President of The Arc of California

Additionally, the federal government has set a deadline of 2022 for implementation of new guidelines that will call for more community integration of this population, further creation of job opportunities, and require more complex support from the people and programs that support people with IDD. Not one element of this future will be cheaper than what we pay today.

This adds up to a crossroads this year: invest now or leave hundreds of thousands of Californians behind and risk losing hundreds of millions of federal dollars!

THEREFORE: We urge Governor Newsom and the Legislature to include an eight percent, across-the-board rate increase to our system as a down-payment toward the implementation of the rate study, to somewhat stabilize the system, and, if nothing else, to simply account for the rising cost of providing services over the last two years alone.

“I receive a pay check twice a month. I work 120 hours plus each pay period and I bring home only \$1500 at the most, usually less than that after taxes. I can't even afford my own place. I even started driving for lyft to make ends meet. I love my job I enjoy going to work every day but it's not enough to survive.”

- Direct Support Professional, Solano County