

## DDS Budget Update – February 11, 2010

On Wednesday, February 3, 2010, Governor Rell introduced her Mid-Term Budget for fiscal year 2011 (FY11). Her proposal recommends an appropriation for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) of \$1,002,067,459 for FY11.

The Governor's Recommended Budget has been raised by the General Assembly as [H.B. No. 5018](#) '**AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011**', and will have a series of public hearings before the Appropriations Committee. The public hearing concerning the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) portion of the budget will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building.

Following is information concerning all of the Appropriations Committee public hearings on the budget:

The Appropriations Committee will hold state agency budget presentations and public hearings from **Tuesday, February 9, 2010** through **Thursday, February 18, 2010**, in **Room 2C** of the LOB. Public speaker order for the public hearings will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. in the LOB Atrium and from 10:15 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. in Room 2700. The list of speakers registered through the lottery system will be posted outside Room 2C two hours prior to the start of the public hearing. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. On February 11 and February 18, the Committee will provide a separate sign-up sheet for persons with special needs. Those speakers will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis. The Committee chairs will alternate between the special needs list and the standard list until the special needs list has been exhausted. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony. Please submit 35 copies of written testimony at the time of sign-up. Testimony delivered after the start of a hearing may not be distributed until the following day. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee.

The details and highlights of the Department of Developmental Services budget in the Governor's Recommended Budget are as follows:

**Personal Services:** The Governor's Recommended budget for FY11 provides sufficient funding within the Personal Services (PS) account to adequately fund the Department's program and administrative infrastructures in order to serve the Department's consumer population.

The Personal Services account included the following reductions or transfers:

- (1) continued savings from the 2009 Retirement Incentive Program (RIP).
- (2) reduction options that were proposed by the Department and accepted as part of the budget including reductions through the management of overtime; attrition; and through building closures at Southbury Training School (STS) allowed by a reduced census at STS.

(3) a reallocation of funds to the Community Residential Services Program to partially fund the conversion of 17 public Community Living Arrangements (CLA) to privately-operated CLA programs.

After all of the adjustments in personal services, the current Governor's Budget will authorize 3,657 FTE DDS employees for FY11, a 397 employee reduction from the 4,054 FTE employees that the Department was authorized for in FY09.

**Other Expenses:** The Governor's Budget contains sufficient funding to address all essential DDS business functions including meeting the Department's obligations for Title XIX and the Home and Community Based Waiver Programs; and providing for sufficient resources to ensure that all health and safety needs of our consumers are met.

**Clinical Services:** Although the Governor's Recommended budget includes rescissions of \$170,000 in the Clinical Services SID, the Department has determined that there is adequate funding to provide for all clinical services during FY11.

**Cooperative Placements:** For FY11, the Governor's Recommended budget provides funding for the annualization of six FY10 placements. No funding for additional placements was requested in FY11.

**Employment Opportunities and Day Services:** For individuals who have aged out or will age out of Department of Children and Family (DCF) services or Local Education Agency (LEA)-funded residential placements (Age Outs), the Governor's Recommended budget maintains the funding for both the annualization of 73 FY10 placements and funding for 70 new individuals in FY11. This budget also maintains funding for both the annualization of 278 FY10 placements for high school graduates and funding for 254 new high school graduates.

The Governor's FY11 Recommended budget makes a \$5,946,000 reduction to annualize the savings associated with a FY10 change to an attendance based rate reimbursement system for day services. The Governor's budget also makes a net \$68,884 reduction resulting from moving individuals, living in out-of-state placements back to Connecticut to allow for Medicaid billing for these services.

**Community Residential Services:** The Governor's Recommended budget continues funding for the annualization of 72 FY10 placements for individuals who have aged out and funding for 67 new individuals who are aging out.

For FY11, the Governor's Recommended budget provides \$2.4 million for the annualization of the FY10 transfer of individuals from public residential programs to private contracted residential programs; \$13.54 million for the balance of the annualization required to fund the FY10 conversion of 17 publicly operated CLAs to CLAs operated by private residential providers; a \$500,000 transfer from the Department of Social Services (DSS) for Home Health Services that will be provided by DDS; and \$379,414 for individuals living in out-of-state placements who will be moving back to the State to allow Medicaid billing for these services.

**Early Intervention:** The Governor's budget provides \$9.3 million for the annualization of the FY10 shortfall. The budget also includes a \$335,928 reduction to reflect the redirection of Birth to Three insurance recoveries that were formerly retained by the providers.

**Voluntary Services Program:** The Governor's Recommended budget reduces Voluntary Services Program (VSP) funding by \$1,696,390. This reduction is a result of the aging out of 38 young adults into DDS adult services and the decision to only start new services for eligible applicants based on the Department's available appropriation.

**Family Reunion Program:** The Governor's Budget annualizes the FY10 rescission of \$3,000 in the Family Reunion Program.