

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
SUMMARY OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS
JULY 2009**

The State of California is experiencing an unprecedented budget shortfall largely due to the severe national economic crisis. Every area of state government is impacted by this fiscal crisis, including the Department of Developmental Services (DDS or Department). The Department's 2009/10 budget includes reductions of \$334 million in General Fund, leaving \$4.7 billion in resources available for services to the over 240,000 individuals served by the Department.

The Department has undertaken numerous efforts to control costs throughout our entire system, including staffing reductions in the DDS headquarters and state-operated developmental centers, contract suspensions, furloughs of state employees with a corresponding 14.2 percent decrease in salary, and development of proposals to reduce regional center operations and purchase of services. DDS is also working to increase federal funds by increasing the number of individuals and services that will be eligible for federal matching dollars. Throughout this difficult process, the Department has remained committed to preserving the entitlement to services and supports; preserving the consumer due process (appeal) rights; and the continued implementation of the individualized planning process mandated in the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act) and Early Intervention Services Act (Early Start).

The Department implemented a stakeholder process to inform the development of the 25 proposals presented to the Legislature, at their request, which achieve the required level of reductions. Stakeholder input was received through three public forums and the establishment of a stakeholder workgroup to advise DDS. A summary of the changes may be found on DDS website www.dds.ca.gov.

Many of the reductions may affect services included in a consumer's current Individual Program Plan (IPP) or Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP). Regional centers will provide these individuals and families with a 30 day notice of action regarding any changes to their services. Although some areas of reduction provide for consideration of extraordinary circumstances, these are very limited exceptions (see the DDS website for more details regarding exemptions). If consumers or families believe they are eligible for a limited exemption, they should contact their regional center case worker. If necessary, an IPP/IFSP meeting may be requested. During these difficult and challenging times it is important that we all work to achieve these savings while preserving the Lanterman Act and the entitlement that serves Californians with developmental disabilities.