

BUDGET INFORMATION - The waiting list held it's own.

Your response to the many rallies, both Virtual and in person as well as Direct Dial and legislative visits regard the 2009 – 2010 PA State Budget were outstanding! Thank you for your incredible support for people in need of services. Here is the state budget breakdown according to Kevin Casey, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs:

- 80 young adults aging out of the high school Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Training
- 107 people who are in a special high cost category (being released from jail or residential treatment centers.)
- 100 emergencies through out the year
- 500 young adults graduating from Special Education. ODP will need to prioritize who will receive funding since this will not cover all students graduating.
- Funding will need to be set aside for changing needs.

Base Funding is problematic. This is discretionary funding that counties can use for an array of services and supports. Examples: Emergency placements, Family Driven Support Funding, some day programs, transportation, etc. According to the state budget we are looking at a \$12 to \$15 million reduction in these funds from what is needed. ODP is looking for ways to make the shortfall less painful.

BUDGET PREPARATION FOR THIS YEAR – A New Target!

High School Students - It's already time to start preparing for next years Budget. Predictions are not good – so we will need to work harder. We have always maintained that the way to end the wait is to cut it off at the source –graduating students. Our young adults have spent years learning skills and have been funded through education. The Office of Developmental Programs can count how many students need funding. Our job is to get legislators to understand and to annually fund this group of young people.

Aging People and Caregivers – You have not been overlooked. The PA Waiting List Campaign is painfully aware that we have people and caregivers who have waited a lifetime for services and supports. We have aging people being cared for by aging family members. Many have no services, poor future planning or inappropriate funding to meet their needs. Since we are family members ourselves, we understand the many issues facing older caregivers. We'd like to change this. Working with the Office of Developmental Programs we would like to capture the number of people who fit in these categories. We can use this number to press for annual funding of this group of aging caregivers.

It's commonsense.