

Pennsylvania Waiting List Campaign Headquarters
4540 Best Station Road
Slatington, PA 18080

2006-2007 Budget Request

The PA Waiting List Campaign is dedicated to ending the devastating wait for community services for people with mental retardation and their families and seeks adequate funding to support every person on the Waiting List with the services they need to live in their own homes and communities.

The Waiting List is a crisis in our communities, our neighborhoods, and for our families. Elderly parents in their 70's, 80's, and 90's are still care giving with no hope for services for their adult children. Each year hundreds of young adults graduate from High School to a life of sitting at home with no services or supports.

Current Waiting List figures from the Office of Mental Retardation as of April 1, 2006:

- ***3,274 Individuals on the Emergency Waiting List in need of immediate services***
- 9,999 Individuals on the Critical List, needing services within the next year
- 11,645 Individuals on the Planning List who will need services within 5 years.
- 24,927 TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE APRIL 2006 WAITING LIST FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

The numbers of people waiting continue to grow at a rate of 150-200 per month according to the PUNS data released by the Office of Mental Retardation. Current funding does not parallel this increase in numbers.

Governor Rendell, in his Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget Proposal, requested \$16.6 million to provide community services to 806 people on the Waiting List as follows:

- \$9.7 million for residential services to 282 individuals on the Waiting List
- \$1.2 million for community services to 156 individuals on the Waiting List
- \$2.4 million to provide day activities for 300 special education graduates
- \$3.1 million to provide services to 68 individuals aging out of the EPSDT program
- \$0.2 million for additional supports and special initiatives

The PA Waiting List Campaign is seeking full funding for those on the Emergency Waiting List. The PA Office of Mental Retardation reports that \$68,175,044 in state funds is needed, which would be matched with \$67,742,245 in Federal funds, to serve the 3,274 people the Emergency Waiting List as of April 2006.

Governor Rendell's Budget also requested \$29 million for a 2% cost of living adjustment for direct care providers in community mental retardation services. **The PAWLC is seeking a 4% COLA in line with the COLA's received by other Medicaid providers in other systems in the Commonwealth.**

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WE CAN. WE WILL. WE MUST. END THE WAIT!

