

DO NOT SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED CUTS TO CONNECTICUT'S INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS AND OTHER NONPROFITS

The Governor has proposed a Deficit Mitigation Plan that disproportionately hurts people with disabilities, low-income children, their parents, seniors and other vulnerable citizens of Connecticut, which could be ANY ONE OF US in our current economy. The Governor is yet again suggesting cutting funding for independent living centers (CILs) state funding. The Connecticut CILs were reduced \$220,000.00 in September 2009. The net result is that EACH of Connecticut's five CILs will be cut \$117,000.00 per year. We will be expected to provide services with less than \$10,000 per CIL per year. Supplanting cut state funds with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) dollars does not solve the problem and it undermines the intent of the ARRA to stimulate the economy. CT's proposed use of Independent Living ARRA funds to plug state cuts leaves the CILs treading water at best. This must not be allowed.

CT CILs provide a variety of much needed services to people with disabilities and their families. Our services are designed to empower people with disabilities to live independently in the community. We are people with disabilities assisting other people with disabilities to go to school, to work, to move out of institutions and to vote, among other activities. We do this by example – we are working and active members of our communities. State independent living dollars provide the core operating funds of the CILs. It is sadly ironic that the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration (MFP), a high profile project for the Governor, designed to reduce costly and unnecessary nursing home placement, and contracted out to CILs and Area Agencies on Aging, will be at risk with the possible loss of state funds. Governor Rell is apparently willing to risk the millions of dollars of savings under MFP by cutting the current \$440,000.00 of state independent living funds. It doesn't make financial sense.

The CILs are only one of many, many nonprofits that will be severely harmed by the Governor's newest Deficit Mitigation Plan. As nonprofits we work together; we rely on each other for our unique expertise and vulnerable people need a network of providers to ensure their well-being. Please remember that nonprofits are EMPLOYERS too. Further cuts to nonprofits will mean lay-offs, and ultimately, will do the most damage to our most needy citizens.

It is incomprehensible to me that the State of Connecticut and its citizens agree to provide critical, state funded services through contracts with a wide network of nonprofits. Why does the state contract with nonprofits?

- We provide the services more cost effectively and efficiently than the state,
- We provide the services in the local communities where people need the service, and,
- We respond to our communities' needs faster than the state.

This year as a supposed cost saving measure, CT state employees were offered and took the retirement package in huge numbers. This resulted in massive staff shortages and the loss of institutional knowledge, to the point that the state reportedly hired back many of the retired workers, who are now receiving wages in addition to their pensions. What kind of deficit mitigation plan is that?

Governor Rell's "plans" have been shortsighted and will NOT reduce the deficit in the long

run. Its time for the state to identify revenue including rolling back the increased threshold for the estate tax, requiring mandatory combined reporting for multi-state businesses, fixing tax loopholes, revising state income taxes, and streamlining the bureaucracy that is state government. As a CT taxpayer and a voter, I'd rather pay an increased income tax than see my neighbors, friends, family and clientele of the nonprofits suffer any further. The state cannot continue to balance its budget by endangering CT nonprofits and the people we serve on behalf of the state.

DO NOT SUPPORT GOVERNOR RELL'S DEFICIT PLAN

DO NOT MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL CUTS TO CONNECTICUT'S

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS

DO NOT MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL CUTS TO CT'S NONPROFITS

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