

Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living
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**Testimony of Gary Waterhouse, Executive Director
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Appropriations Committee:
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan
December 9, 2009

Governor Rell's Deficit Mitigation Plan for Fiscal year 2010 eliminates all state funding to Independent Living Centers. (\$365,000)

Program Description

Independent Living Centers are community-based, non-residential nonprofit corporations operated by and for people with disabilities, providing direct services that promote independence and community integration for people of all ages with all types of disabilities. Services address individual needs in areas such as housing, financial assistance, employment, medical services and personal care. Five organizations operate Independent Living Centers in five locations across the state.

Effect of Proposed Budget Cuts

The Department of Social Services relies on Independent Living Center to administer grants and provide services under state administered grants. Grants are more effective because Center's have infrastructure (*rent, utilities, insurance, telephones, internet access, administrative staff and management*) to efficiently implement grant goals and objectives. The following programs are jeopardized by elimination of state funding:

- *Money Follows the Person*
- *Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)*
- *Assistive/Rehabilitation Technology*
- *Ticket to Work Activities*
- *Pre-Apprentice Program*

All future grants effecting people with disabilities that are more cost efficient when managed by Independent Living Centers than government employees.

Loss of state funding will result in significant staff lay-offs at Independent Living Centers, most staff at Centers are people with disabilities.

Total elimination of state funding is unreasonable, a 5% or 10% cut across the board is reasonable and sustainable.