

Subject: Against Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts to DDS  
From: Carol Fullman, Sandy Hook CT resident of CT since 1978

While raising my own children in CT I knew 2 families raising special needs children. Their children are now in their mid-thirties and the families depend on DDS services to keep their family members home. I am sure it would cost the state more to place them in state facilities (if there were any).

I am friends with two women in Newtown with husbands and families that have teen-aged children with severe autism spectrum disorder. Both families have other children. They are dependent on DDS services to manage their children and give their other children a normal life, not to mention themselves.

My own grand-daughter aged 2.5 was just diagnosed with ASD with an underlying genetic syndrome last week. My neighbor's grand-daughter aged 2 was just diagnosed with Rett's syndrome two weeks ago. Both of these toddlers are CT residents too. Until I saw our governor's desire to cut services, I thought that these two toddler's families could count on DDS services to help their children and families. It seems Governor Malloy thinks otherwise.

I urge you to restore the DDS budget to at least its former level preferable more. There are too many CT families out there that depend on this important function of our state government. Our state has always had good services to the DDS clients and their families: let's keep it that way.

Regards,  
Carol Fullman