

Protect Individuals with Developmental Disabilities from Further Cuts



Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.



Family Care Council



www.autismfl.com



Advocacy Center
for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.

During the 2007 Regular Legislative session, individuals with developmental disabilities on the DD Waivers sustained extensive service reductions and eliminations as part of the Legislature's effort to address deficits, increases in utilization, and people waiting too long for services.

Already this summer, thousands of individuals have received notices of service reductions (4000) and/or future service eliminations (9,500).

During the upcoming 2007 Special Session, we ask the Legislature to protect DD Waiver clients from any further cuts because:

- APD has just begun implementing the changes enacted into law during the Regular Session and it is too soon to measure their full impact, including negative impact on individuals' health and safety.
- There is a risk of increased institutionalization or restrictive placements if the changes in law propel people into crisis.
- The federal government provides 57 cents of every dollar spent for DD Waiver services and therefore, for every dollar cut from the state DD waiver budget, individuals lose more than two dollars of services.

We support cost prediction and control models that are person-centered and recommend services appropriate to meet the needs of individuals that families and others cannot meet.

Individuals receiving services from the DD Waivers sustained significant cuts during the 2007 Regular Session. We urge no further cuts to these individuals' services.