



The Arc's Families Need Your Help!

Budget amendments proposed by Governor McDonnell jeopardize community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

1. Reject proposed amendments that allow redirection of FMAP funding

Background:

At budget hearings across the state, hundreds of people with disabilities, family members, service providers and concerned citizens testified about the devastating impact proposed cuts to HCBS Waivers would have on their lives, homes, jobs and families. The Arc of Virginia has applauded the 2010 General Assembly's response, restoring these critical services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities if new FMAP funds are received.

The Concern:

The budget amendments proposed by Governor McDonnell's administration may jeopardize these restorations because the language allows the administration to redirect FMAP funds. Although the intention may have been benign, there is now the ability to use FMAP funds for alternative purposes, leaving the following cuts/restorations up in the air for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families:

- 250 Intellectual Disability Waivers for waiting list families
- Freeze on HCBS Waiver enrollment
- 2/3 cut in respite hours for HCBS Waivers (from 720 hours/year to 240 hours/year)
- 5% cut in HCBS Waiver reimbursement rates for providers of services
- Cuts to HCBS Waiver services, Environmental Modification and Assistive Technology
- Limiting HCBS Waiver eligibility from 300% of SSI to 250% of SSI

Before you vote on Wednesday, please remember:

- **Virginia is already near bottom in national rankings for community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities** (i.e., *State of the States in Developmental Disabilities, University of Minnesota RRTC and UCP Case for Inclusion*). We cannot afford to risk losing ground!
- **The General Assembly worked hard to prioritize restoration of critical services with FMAP funds.** The proposed budget language would override these decisions and language negotiated by the Budget Conference Committee.
- **"Tweaks" to the 2010-2012 Budget can be made in the 2011 General Assembly Session.** The budget summary says that restorations are \$13.8 million above the anticipated FMAP revenue. The majority of restorations, however, take place in the second year of the biennial budget. The proposed language is unnecessary as the General Assembly would have the opportunity to amend the 2010-2012 Budget during the next legislative session.

THE BOTTOM LINE: On behalf of Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, The Arc of Virginia asks you to prevent the playing of "budget roulette" with critical services. Please vote "NO" to the proposed FMAP amendments!

Local Chapters of The Arc of Virginia:

The Arc of Augusta · The Arc of Central Virginia · Danville Arc · The Arc of Eastern Shore · Halifax Arc · Hanover Arc · The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham · The Arc of Loudoun · The Arc of Loudoun · The Arc of North Central Virginia · The Arc of Northern Shenandoah Valley · The Arc of Northern Virginia · The Arc of Virginia Peninsula · The Arc of Greater Prince William · Greater Richmond ARC · The Arc of the Piedmont · The Arc of Rappahannock · The Arc of Smyth County · The Arc of Greater Roanoke Valley · The Arc of Rockbridge · The Arc of South Hampton Roads · The Arc of Greater Williamsburg · The Arc of Warren

2. Reject proposed amendments that move HCBS Waivers into managed care.

Background:

Virginians with disabilities, family members, advocates, service providers and legislators have all invested time and effort to develop the infrastructure of support and services that exists today. Although 6,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities continue to remain on waiting lists, the home and community-based services that are available to over 15,000 Virginians receiving Medicaid Waivers are the result of decades of work.

The Concern:

Governor McDonnell has introduced a budget amendment that would transition home and community-based Waivers to “managed care”. Item 297, KKKK 3. says: ***“The second phase of this managed care program will include the mandatory coverage of acute and/or long term care services for Medicaid eligible children who are in foster care and under the custody of a local department of social services; for all recipients of community based care waiver programs and institutional long term care services; and individuals dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.”*** This model would be harmful to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, resulting in a “watered down” service system.

Before you vote on Wednesday, please remember:

- **There was NO public debate about this issue during the 2010 General Assembly Session.** People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families feel “blindsided” by the proposed budget amendment.
- **Managed care is detrimental to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.** Families using managed care in other states report loss of critical services, difficulty navigating the system, unreliable eligibility process, loss of consumer “choice”, sporadic case management and lack of accountability/stakeholder involvement. Providers report experiencing delayed payments and lower reimbursement rates. Legislators have reported limited policy and funding oversight with managed care programs, as well and loss of funding for services due to administrative/overhead costs.
- **There is no “carve out” or exemption for home and community-based waivers.** While the managed care may be positive for other populations, there are significant concerns about how this model would impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. If the state does choose to move forward with managed care, it must “carve out” HCBS Waivers and the language in the proposed budget amendment does not do that.
- **Why the rush?** The Arc of Virginia has worked for 55 years to help establish a comprehensive service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Proposing to essentially dismantle this system without analysis of potential impacts and input from people with disabilities, their families and the General Assembly would be inappropriate and irresponsible.

THE BOTTOM LINE: On behalf of Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, The Arc of Virginia asks you not to “water down” an already fragile community-based system. Please vote “NO” to proposed budget amendment moving HCBS Waivers into managed care.

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