

# Controlling Costs for the Future Of the New Opportunities Waiver

## What Legislators Can Do in the 2009 Legislative Session

- Appropriate funds from the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) Trust Fund for an additional 2,000 NOW slots for people on the waiting list.
- Preserve the original intent of the Trust Fund.

## The Costs of the NOW are Coming Down

- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will soon begin implementing a resource allocation model that allocates funding for services to NOW recipients based on an individual's assessed type and level of needs. The levels are identified through assessments using the Supports Intensity Scale/La. Plus (SIS/LA+).
- Implementation of this model will begin in early 2009 for new NOW recipients and will be phased in with current NOW recipients over the next few years.
- The allocation of resources to recipients based on their individual needs will significantly reduce the cost of the NOW program. OCDD calculated an average cost of the 2,025 new NOW recipients using the resource allocation model and the number of recipients at each level of need. **The average cost of utilization is estimated to be \$44,208.** Current average cost is approximately \$70,000.
- Estimated cost savings using this model are \$12 Million/annually for the 2,025 new NOW recipients and \$40 Million/annually for existing NOW recipients.

Advocates appreciate Legislators' appropriation of funds for 2,025 NOW slots during the 2008 legislative session and maintaining the intent of the NOW Trust Fund. Over 9,400 people still on the waiver waiting list are hopeful this trend will continue.