

The Cost Effective Use of Funds To Serve People with Developmental Disabilities

What Legislators Can Do in the 2009 Legislative Session

Support Speaker Pro Tempore Karen Carter Peterson's Amendment to House Bill 1 for an additional 2,000 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots for people on the waiting list.

- Funding for these slots in FY2010 is available in the NOW Trust Fund.
- Funding for the continuation of these slots in FY2011 will be available through savings realized by implementation of OCDD's new assessment and planning process.

Why Do This?

- Over 9,500 people continue to wait nine years for the waiver services they need now.
- Individuals and families should not be denied waiver services they desperately need when money is available in the NOW Trust Fund that is not being used.
- Without waiver services, many families eventually reach the end of their emotional, physical and/or financial ropes and seek out-of-home placement. This costs the state more money and breaks up families.
- Maintaining the FY2010 fiscal effort in the NOW program will fund the continuation of the 2,000 new slots in FY2011 (i.e., no increase in the FY2010 budget amount for NOW services in FY2011).
- OCDD's new assessment and planning process is already bringing the average cost of the NOW down. Costs will be reduced even further with implementation of the Resource Allocation Model. OCDD calculated an average cost of the 2,025 new NOW recipients to be \$44,208. This is significantly lower than the current average cost of \$70,000. According to OCDD, implementation of Resource Allocation will begin with all existing NOW recipients 7/1/09.