

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

## **What Legislators Can Do in the 2009 Legislative Session**

Support Senator Nick Gautreaux'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 is available in the NOW Trust Fund.
- Funding for continuation of these services in future years is available by maintaining the current fiscal effort in the developmental disabilities system and spending those funds more efficiently.

## **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.
- 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 \$65,000. According to OCDD, implementation of Resource Allocation will begin with all existing NOW recipients 7/1/09.