

Dear Families,

We are putting together a package of family stories to send to our California lawmakers, along with a letter from our Board asking for a funding increase for the Developmental Disability system.

As you know, funding shortages have meant program closures, no possibility of new programs starting up, and staffing shortages in existing programs. In addition, staffing gaps at Regional Centers make it difficult for service coordinators to do their jobs adequately. We know that you may have had frustrating experiences with the Regional Center; increased funding will greatly improve their ability to serve you.

We encourage you to write about difficulties you have experienced; words from families have so much more impact than anything that comes from professionals.

Here is a brief outline of a format we suggest -

1. Have you experienced any challenges with day programs, work programs, transportation, or any other community-based services in recent years? Please describe the situations.
2. Do you feel that your Regional Center Service Coordinator is able to be responsive to your needs? Are you having any other challenges with the Regional Center? Has that situation changed over the years?
3. What do you think might improve things in any of these areas?

Please say as much or as little as you wish. Make your words as personal as feels comfortable; you can even add a picture of your loved one. Seeing real people and hearing their stories is powerful for legislators.

Thank you so much for participating. We appreciate your words, and your willingness to share. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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