



California's protection and advocacy system
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#10: Fact Sheet on California's Budget Cuts to Developmental Disability Services & Programs - July 15, 2009

Maximizing Federal Financial Participation¹

These changes are included in the Budget Trailer Bill. They will be effective when the Budget is approved, unless the language is changed by the legislature.

The Lanterman Act requires regional centers to ensure the provision of a wide array of services to eligible people with developmental disabilities. California currently has a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver² for persons with developmental disabilities ("DD waiver"). This waiver allows California to receive federal funds for services that would otherwise be paid solely by the State. Some people are not eligible for the DD waiver, and some services are not covered by the waiver. Therefore, California pays 100% of the costs of regional center services for some consumers.

How the Law Changed

California plans to apply for a Medicaid "state plan amendment." This amendment would allow California to receive federal funds through the

¹ The changes are part of the Budget Trailer Bill AB x3 45. You may find the law at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx3_45_bill_20090628_amended_asm_v98.html. The changes affecting application for new federal Medicaid funding are found in Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 4688.3.

² California's Medicaid program is called "Medi-Cal."

Medicaid program for more regional center services. While this change might not affect the services available to consumers, it would save the state money.

If the federal government accepts the state's proposal, California plans to develop emergency regulations to develop rules for implementing the state plan amendment.