

**For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities**

Below are some notes from Christiano Sosa, the ED for The Arc of Colorado. On Tuesday May 26, 2020 our chapter sponsored a parent support group to discuss what we know about the budget in CO right now (May 2020). As many of you have heard, CO needs to cut about 25% out of the budget next year and we want to assure you that SO FAR, people with disabilities, their caregivers and families have not been seriously affected. This could change, but so far so good!

What do you need to know as the parent of a person with I/DD:

- The joint budget committee considered many wide-ranging cuts including cuts that would impact people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- For almost all of these recommendations, the Joint Budget Committee voted not to move forward with making these budget cuts
- There were cuts made to broader Medicaid programs, but where people with I/DD are concerned, funding remains largely intact
- Where were budget cuts made?
 - SB195- Child and Youth Behavioral Supports bill will not be cut from funding necessarily, but the deadlines will be pushed back until there is available funding. This means that this important work can continue, if we can find funding to make it happen - they often call this “gifts, grants and donations”.
- Where were budget cuts NOT made
 - The JBC considered options to cut, but DID NOT cut
 - State SLS services remain intact (this is NOT the regular Supported Living Services Medicaid waiver - this is a small program that is funded with state only dollars. It can help people who are not yet eligible for Medicaid, or people who work and make too much to have Medicaid, but still need help)
 - There were no cuts to the HCBS-DD waiver
 - There were no cuts to CHP+
- What about education?
 - No cuts were made to special education
- What about other programs?
 - Early intervention programs were initially promised a sizeable increase in this fiscal year, they will no longer receive this increase.
 - Provider’s will not receive a 1.9% rate increase (common policy +) - the rates will remain what they are now for waiver services
 - The Medicaid Dental benefit for adults was cut from \$1,500/year to \$1,000/year. If an adult is on the Supported Living Services waiver, or the HCBS-DD waiver (AKA Comp or residential), they can access necessary dental care over and above the \$1k through the waiver. Children are protected under EPSDT.

Please feel free to reach out to Christiano at The Arc of Colorado or Carol Meredith with any questions, concerns or rumors that you hear about cuts to services to people with disabilities. We are happy to answer your questions and provide you with source documents that detail actual decisions that have been made.

Thank you for all you have to done to ensure that the legislature understands the needs of people with disabilities and their families. The years of work have paid off. We have many champions under the “gold dome” and we are so grateful for their support during these extremely difficult economic times.