



East Bay Developmental Disabilities Legislative Coalition

ISSUE: Proposed Rate Model Delay

SERVICE PROVIDERS For EBLC Legislative Townhall

Advocacy Cheat Sheet

1. INTRODUCE yourself.

Hi, I'm [NAME], and my organization [ORG NAME] is in your district. We serve [#] Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and employ [#] Direct Support Professionals.

2. RAISE the ISSUE.

Governor Newsom is proposing to DELAY funding to the IDD Community for a year- \$613M!

3. SHARE YOUR STORY.

In your own words, explain why this delay would be devastating for the individuals and organization you serve.

Please feel free to use or reference the sample talking points on the back of this page:

4. ASK FOR SUPPORT. BE DIRECT!

Can we count on [Asm./Sen./Rep. NAME] support for Californians with IDD? Californians with disabilities are counting on [LEGISLATOR NAME] to support them by pushing back on Governor Newsom's proposal and maintaining the current timeline for Rate Implementation.

5. FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS to CONSIDER.

- What is the Legislator's position on this? If you don't know, can you find out?
- Will the Legislator or Staff need more information? EBLC is happy to provide more information or context.
- Invite the Staff and/or Legislator to a Site Visit or request a District Office meeting.

6. THANK YOU! Please thank them and get their contact information and offer to connect them to EBLC.

General Reminders

- Be kind and respectful when you are speaking with your legislator's office.
- Keep the discussion FOCUSED on the impact to Californians with disabilities and the workforce that serves them.
- Be honest about anything you don't know or aren't sure of – it is OK to say, "I don't know, but I can find out or get back to you."
- Please do not make statements that you are not 100% sure about, instead, please make a commitment to follow up with them with that information or connect them to EBLC.



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Additional Talking Points – Service Providers

- The deferral of DDS rate implementation is the highest single delay/deferment within Governor Newsom's State Budget Proposal- \$613m. This is essentially a CUT.
- Why is this being done on the backs of California's most vulnerable? If a State's Budget represents the values of government, why are Californians with IDD being targeted?
- The State Legislature already acted to move the deadline to July 1, 2024, understanding the urgency of need.
- Keeping inadequate rates the same, while overall costs- inflation and business related cost rise, while competing industries are getting higher minimum wage floors, has the impact of a cut. Our workforce cannot compete in the labor market.
- Fast food workers are to receive \$20/hr. wage floors in April 2024. Shouldn't the value of a Direct Support Professional who chooses to serve another human being be worth more than what the state currently offers?
- Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) are ESSENTIAL Workers, who need a Living, Professional Wage- This is NOT a Minimum Wage Job.
- Currently, DSPs are undervalued and underpaid. Most are working at or near State Minimum Wage and working multiple jobs. It is a challenge to recruit, hire, train, and retain staff. The Care Economy cuts across all ethnicities, primarily impacting BIPOC communities and women of color.
- Lack of Funding and Support for the IDD Community worsens already strained paths of all Californians from accessing service, especially communities of color, the Deaf community and residents that are non- English speaking.
- Nationally, 40% of DSP's receive public benefits, 25% live below the federal poverty line, and many DSPs struggle to live in the areas where they work.
- There will be a huge increase in people benefitting or requiring services from this service sector coming in the next 10-20 years, without a readily available replacement talent pool to recruit from.
- High turnover and attrition are a problem. When the workforce cannot compete with the rest of the labor market, people will go unserved, needs will be unmet, and larger stresses on the system will occur, including program closures and waiting lists.