

Over 300,000 Californians with developmental disabilities live in our communities. Federal funding is critically important to providing them with much-needed individualized services and supports. Any changes to federal funding should neither reduce actual funding levels nor increase funding burdens on the state.

People with developmental disabilities, just like other people, benefit from a lot of different government programs. Many of those programs receive federal funds. For example, California gets over \$2 billion every year in federal funding for regional center services. Most of that federal money is to help people live more independently in their communities.

There are many other ways that federal funds directly help people with developmental disabilities, including:

- Special education in schools and Disabled Student Services in colleges help people to maximize their potential, their learning, and their life skills.
- Job training is provided not only by service providers, but also through the Department of Rehabilitation and Department of Education.
- Social Security's SSI payments give critical money for many people with disabilities to pay for food and housing.
- Affordable housing programs, including Housing Choice vouchers, provide people places to live.
- Medi-Cal pays for many services, including standard doctor's visits, hospital stays, and medications.
- Dental services are a critical part of caring for a person's physical health needs; Denti-Cal is a major source of funding for this type of care.
- In-Home Support Services pay caregivers to help people live in their own homes or with their families.
- Law enforcement helps keep people and their homes safe.

Each of these services – and many others – get federal funding. They all help people with developmental disabilities live in their communities. Politicians talk about changing federal funding through plans called “block grants” or “per capita limits.” Both ideas would mean less federal money for programs now or in the future. This is why funding cuts can hurt people who need these services the most. Any changes to federal funding should not reduce services or require states to pay more for them. We must make sure people with developmental disabilities get the services they need.

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