

May 11, 2017

Senator Richard Pan  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget, Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Department of Developmental Services – May Revisions of the Governor’s 2017-18 Budget**

Honorable Senator Pan and Assembly Member Arambula:

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the nonprofit regional centers that serve over 300,000 Californian children and adults with developmental disabilities. We are submitting this letter, in follow-up to our prior letter dated February 22, 2017, for your consideration for action during the May Revise hearing process.

**Suspended Services and Respite**

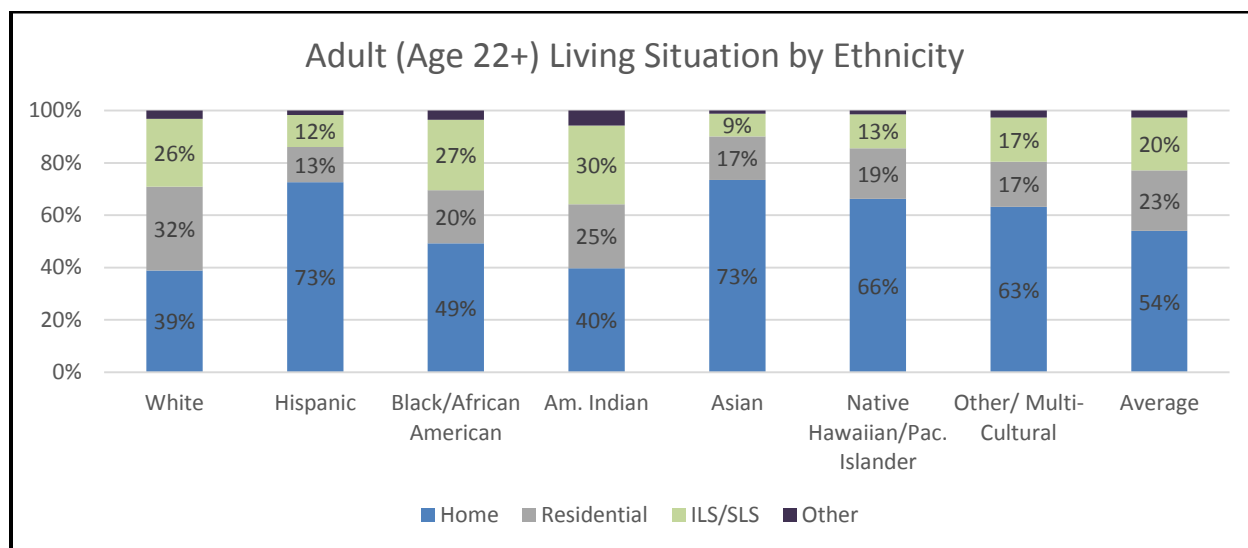
Regional centers strive to support individuals with developmental disabilities to remain in their family homes and to improve equitable spending across racial and ethnic lines. Respite reduces the stress experienced by families, but some families prefer camp or social recreation services because of the added benefit of group social opportunities for the individual while the family is taking a break from their care.

Trailer Bill Language of 2009 has Resulted in Less Individualized Services

In 2009 individuals and their families lost their camping and social recreational services and saw a reduction in available respite services, regardless of individual need. These services were temporarily suspended until the implementation of the Individual Choice Budget, which the state is no longer pursuing. Now these cuts are permanent.

### Population Most Affected by the Cuts

Individuals requesting these services generally reside with their families. 78% of Californians with developmental disabilities live with their families. Keeping families together supports the choice of the individual and family, while saving the state significant money. As illustrated below, those from ethnically diverse backgrounds are far more likely to live with their families in adulthood.



### Reinstatement of Services

When camp and social recreation services were suspended in 2009, the total amount of savings that was scored for the suspension of those and two other services (educational services for minors and nonmedical therapies) was \$27.4 million annually. The amount scored for implementation of the respite cap was \$4.8 million at that time. We understand that DDS is currently preparing a cost estimate for restoration of the suspended services and the removal of the respite cap.

Restoring camp and social recreation in addition to lifting the cap on respite will improve regional centers' ability to help individuals and their families to continue living together. In addition, as participants of regional center stakeholder meetings have suggested, the reinstatement of these services will also assist regional centers in meeting the goal of equitable spending across racial and ethnic lines.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
Amy Westling  
Interim Executive Director

Cc: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
Members, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee #1  
Peggy Collins, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
Renita Polk, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3  
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Jennifer Troia, President Pro Tempore's Consultant, Human Services  
Gail Gronert, Policy Consultant, Office of the Speaker  
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Nancy Bargmann, Director, Department of Developmental Services  
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Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor