

Pennsylvania fails to provide for adults with developmental disabilities. Petition opposes Governor

By Kids Together, Inc.

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Hundreds sign petition to oppose Pennsylvania's funding bias toward institutions, leaving thousands on waiting lists, and more proposed cuts to community services. Families are terrified about their children's futures and the lack of any supports.

Think adults with developmental disabilities are taken care of in PA? Think again! 18,013 are on waiting lists for services, some for decades. Another 700 plus will leave schools each year and also be forced to sit at home with no supports. Governor Rendell has proposed an additional 17.3 million in cuts to the already limited community services, while state and private institutions are getting over 3.5% increases.

Years of Early Intervention and special education to support children's inclusion in schools and community, and to prepare them to participate and contribute in adult life are being wasted as they sit home regressing and losing skills without the supports for employment, recreation or other activities. No supports and no adult protective services makes the likelihood for abuse, neglect and exploitation almost certain for many. People with disabilities need to be valued and supported in their homes and communities, instead Pennsylvania has a funding bias that forces individuals into costly undesirable taxpayer funded institutional settings to get care. It only makes sense to provide the more cost effective and beneficial community based services, and not cut funding for these services. The Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's mission includes a statement to "Protect and serve Pennsylvanians" yet the continued institutional funding bias and cuts to community service completely violates that mission.

Let the state and the legislators know that people with developmental disabilities matter to Pennsylvanians. Families are terrified about their children's futures, many are faced with a member of the family having to leave employment to provide their adult child assistance and care. The lack of appropriate funding and supports destroys lives, dreams and ruins families. The state's \$228,000 average entitlement per person to isolate them in undesired institutions needs to have a portion of it shifted and designated to community based services (waivers) to support people in their homes and community for less and to improve and maintain the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Sign the petition to end the waiting list and oppose the budget cuts <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/EndPAWaitingList>

Hundreds have already signed, many comments by families are heart wrenching.

Take the time to share, post, tweet, email with others. The state's practices are literally destroying human lives and families and people need to speak out!

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Kids Together is an all volunteer non-profit whose mission is "to promote inclusive communities where all people belong".

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