

SAVE OUR SERVICES FACTS

The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought enormous loss to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and to the Direct Support Professionals who support them, putting an enormous strain on the voluntary agencies providing critical services to 87% of people with IDD, including over 483 people who died due to the pandemic.

The Federal Government gave New York State \$6 billion for PPE & other associated costs of dealing with Covid-19.

- The voluntary agencies received **none** of this money.
- Agencies were left on their own to find and pay for PPE in a very competitive environment.
- DSPs continued to work receiving hazard pay.
- Quarantine sites had to be created to isolate the infected.

None of these expenses have been reimbursed.

These costs came on top of years of erosion to the field.

- There has been no Cost-of-Living Increase for the last ten years.
- There was a 10% cut in 1992.
- The rise in the minimum wage meant agencies were in competition with big box stores for workers for a job with huge responsibility and scrutiny.
- On August 17, the state started withholding 20% from all bills that are state paid except for rent supplements (in order to avoid evictions).
- Since October 1, OPWDD lowered the reimbursement to agencies for times when residents either visit their families or are hospitalized.
- There is no reimbursement for a bed that may be vacant due to a death.

Now the Governor is calling for a 5% budget cut, all while:

- There are more people on the autism spectrum.
- Needs are increasing because of the natural aging process.

This growth in need makes the 5% a deeper cut and threatens the system in a profound way.

- Agencies are already cutting programs and cutting the beds for which they aren't being paid. This is leaving individuals who rely on these supports without a lifeline.
- When normal life returns, the Day Programs may not be there.
- Aging parents are desperate for a placement for their child before an emergency or their passing leaves their loved one without a home.
- The Oct. 1 cuts have had an impact on the available beds for those on the emergency needs list of over 1000.