



GO! BULLETIN

The Governor's Recommended Budget and what it means for Developmental Disabilities Services

The Governor's proposed budget for 2017-2019 was published earlier this month and with the State's current \$1.7 billion deficit, the Governor is suggesting some spending cuts including some that will impact the Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Systems:

- Elimination of Family Network Funding
- Elimination of Regional Programs
- Elimination of Fairview Housing Trust Fund
- Reduced funding to Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPs) and Brokerages from 95% of what it would cost the state to provide case management services to 91% of the estimated cost equity.

While the Governor's proposed budget did include funding to increase Direct Support Professional wage rates, it is less than half of what is needed to stabilize this workforce.

The good news is that the Governor's Budget funds the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Services budget at the current service level which means that services to people with I/DD would be funded, and no changes were proposed to criteria to become eligible to receive I/DD services.

The other good news is that we still have an opportunity to influence decisions about the DD Services budget before it is finalized.

The Governor's proposed budget is only a recommendation and provides a starting point for the State Legislature to begin their budget development process.

Here is the timeline for the legislative budget process:

In the summer before a long legislative session, the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) creates its "agency request budget" as part of the DHS agency budget that includes a Current Service Level Budget which is an estimate of how much it will cost to provide services based on caseload estimates for the next biennium, and Policy Option Packages which are extra requests for I/DD program investments.

In December before a long legislative session, the Governor's Recommended Budget is released which provides a starting point for the Legislature to develop its own budget.

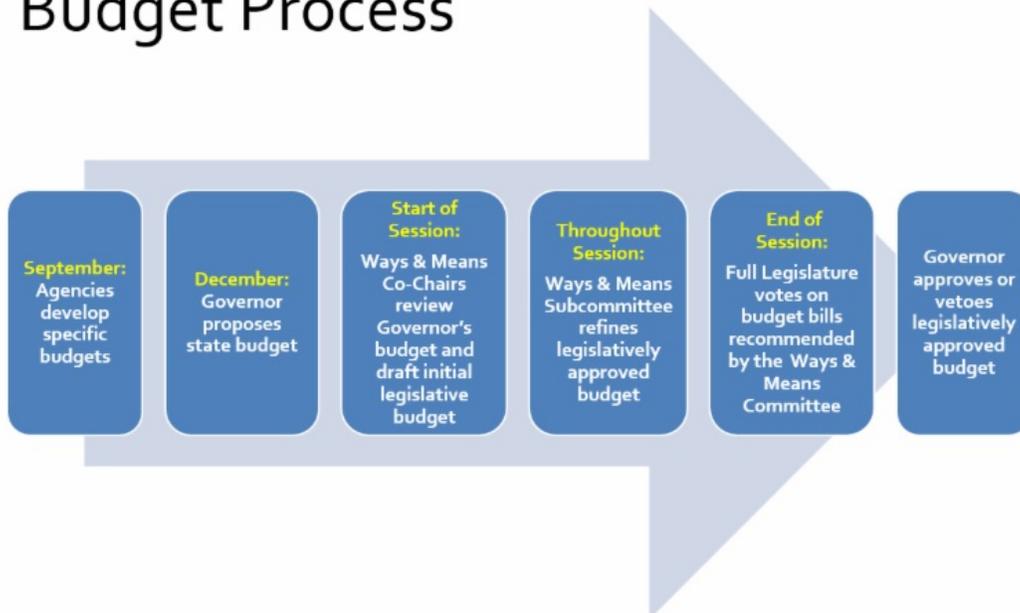
At the start of the long session, which begins in February every odd numbered year, the Co-Chairs of the Ways & Means Committee review the Governor's Recommended Budget and draft their initial legislatively budget outline.

The Ways and Means Committee refines the proposed legislative budget based on priorities set throughout the session.

It is up to us as advocates to ensure that our priorities are included in the legislatively approved budget as early in the session as possible.

As the session moves into its final few weeks, the Ways and Means Committee finalizes their budget bills and brings them to the full legislature for a vote. This becomes the Legislatively Approved Budget which ultimately funds State agencies such as DD Services. As the long session comes to an end, the Governor approves or vetoes the Legislatively Approved Budget.

Budget Process



Oregon IDD Coalition's 2017 Legislative Priority Statement

Everyone deserves to be a part of their community. People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities are most successful in their communities when we build a variety of services that embrace the diversity of people's needs and goals across their lifespan.

Yet budget cuts are jeopardizing the diversity of the Oregon I/DD system leaving it unable to meet the needs of people with I/DD. The Oregon I/DD Coalition believes that for Oregonians with I/DD to be members of their communities, Oregon must properly fund Direct Support Professionals, housing options, family networks and case management.

Advocacy Messages:

Direct Support Professionals: Fund a living wage to stabilize DSP workforce that keeps citizens with I/DD healthy and safe while they live, learn, work and age in our communities.

Fairview Housing Trust: Keep the promise of affordable, safe and accessible housing for people with I/DD by fully funding the Fairview Trust.

Family Networks: Fund the regional family networks to strengthen families and communities as they work together to build sustainable support systems.

Case Management: Fund I/DD case management at 95% equity so that Oregonians with I/DD can remain safe and supported at home, work and in the community.

Action Steps

In less than 5 minutes you can start to make a difference!

Send a Holiday Message to Your Legislators

First, go on <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/> to find out who your State Representative and State Senator is. Then email your two State Legislators the Coalition's Priority Statement starting with "Everyone deserves..." and include the Advocacy Messages along with a quick message on why this is important to you personally. Add in a holiday greeting then end the message with your name and city.

We will provide you with advocacy activities, tools and support to help you stay connected with your legislator throughout the upcoming session. We invite you to join us at the Capitol in the weeks and months ahead as we unite to secure funding for these important programs that are at risk.

Make Plans to GO to the Capitol for DD Advocacy Days in 2017

Please make plans to join us in advocacy during the 2017 Legislative Session at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

The Oregon Intellectual / Developmental Disability Coalition's GO! Project Advocacy Team will be at the Capitol to provide information, training and support from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the following dates:

MON, February 6	Session Launch Event: Focus on DD Services Funding
MON, February 27	Focus on Direct Support Professional Wages
MON, March 20	Focus on Families & Regional Family Networks
MON, April 10	Focus on Early Intervention & Early Childhood Special Education
MON, May 1	Focus on Housing Fairview Trust Fund
MON, May 22	Focus on Case Management & Systems Efficiency
MON, June 12	Session Wrap-Up Event: Legislator Appreciation Day

It's fun and easy to join us in advocating for funding for DD Services throughout the session!

- Schedule visits with your State Senator and State Representative on any of these dates to discuss the importance of DD Services
- Review the Oregon IDD Coalition Priorities to help you identify which focus topic you want to discuss with your legislators.
- Wear something yellow to show unity in advocacy
- Check in at the DD Advocacy Headquarters before and after your visits

Each Advocacy Day includes:

- Training overview on the legislature and meeting your legislator
- Support to develop and practice your talking points for your legislative meeting
- Support to get to your legislator's office
- Debrief after your meeting

Note: While many of these I/DD Advocacy Days at the Capitol have a focus topic to help advocates rally around a specific issue, we will be available to support your advocacy efforts on any topic at any of these scheduled advocacy events.

Add these Advocacy Days to your 2017 calendar now!



As we wrap up 2016 we will be busy analyzing bills in preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session. We will also be updating our legislative priority talking points with more details in the weeks ahead.

Until then, we encourage you to reach out to your two State Legislators before the New Year to express the importance of DD Services and to wish them Happy Holidays...

Just as we wish you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday Season now!

- From All of Us at the GO! Project and the Oregon I/DD Coalition

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