

## Today's News:

Governor Corzine and the NJ Legislature reached agreement on a historic Fiscal Year 2009 budget, which passed both houses on June 24th. The new \$32.9 billion budget reflects the largest absolute spending reduction in state history. Governor Corzine is expected to sign the budget into law next Monday. This is only the sixth time in nearly 60 years that a governor will sign a budget that is less than the budget enacted in the previous year.

Although this budget is \$100 million lower than the budget Governor Corzine presented in February (and \$600 million less than the previous year budget), it continues to reflect his priorities that include:

- Educating our children,
- Caring for the most vulnerable, and
- Providing property tax relief.

The Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) strongly supports the governor's priorities, appreciating his commitment to New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens. We are committed to his goal of having all state government agencies manage their funding as effectively as possible.

There may be no clearer example of the DDD commitment than our recent application submitted to the federal government for approval, to include more services under our Community Care Waiver (CCW). When approved, we will have the ability to claim new federal funding for a wide range of services we deliver to individuals and families through contracts with agencies across the state. Some of the state funding we currently expend for such services would then be redirected to benefit and assist additional individuals and families.

We expect that the expanded CCW, in conjunction with several other initiatives currently underway, will provide the foundation for a stronger and more fiscally responsible developmental disabilities system for years to come. We will keep you updated on these activities in future editions of DDD Today.

The following is a sampling of activities and a notation on their alignment with Governor Corzine's priorities:

- Olmstead Initiative Path To Progress
  - ✓ Institutions will be downsized and community services will be reorganized, so that people with developmental disabilities can be better served closer to home.
- Contract Reform: Shift to Fee For Service
  - ✓ DDD services will be tailored to the needs of the individual, and accountability for public dollars will be improved.
- Children's Placement Enhancement Pilot (C-PEP)
  - ✓ Expanded infrastructure will allow more children to receive residential services in-state, closer to home.
- Addressing the Community Services Waiting List (CSWL) and Day Program Waiting List
  - ✓ The waiting list will better reflect the true need for services in the community.
- Support for the Community Work Force
  - ✓ Training and education can benefit both direct care staff and the people under our care (as community services are reorganized/expanded).