



THE ADVOCATE

URGENT CALL FOR FAMILY SUPPORT RECIPIENTS & THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO WAIT

On Friday, November 4, 2011, Jim Henry, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities presented the Department's 2012 budget to Governor Haslam and Mr. Emke, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. In his opening statements, he stated that the Family Support Program is a very cost effective program that provided support to 4,523 individuals with varying disabilities at an average cost of \$1,300.00 for fiscal year 2010. He stated that this program helps families to maintain stability and helps parents to keep their families together without needing more costly assistance from other state programs. After making these remarks about the effectiveness of the program, he then said he was **NOT asking for funding for the Program for this coming year.**

If our State Administration and State Legislators WILL NOT appropriate funding for the program it ends June 30, 2012.

If the Family Support Program ends, it will be devastating to over 4,500 Tennessean's that depend on this vital assistance to get by.

**“RALLY TO SAVE FAMILY SUPPORT”
KINGSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
FRIDAY, DEC. 16TH
10:00 A.M.**

Your Legislators committed to be in attendance!

**Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey Senator Mike Faulk
Rep. Tony Shipley Rep. Jon Lundburg**

YOU MUST SPEAK UP!!!!!!

Bring your family member with a disability or a picture of them.

If you are unable to attend the rally, please contact your State Legislators to speak with them directly or write a letter to them.

TALKING POINTS FOR FAMILIES TO USE WITH LEGISLATORS OR STATE OFFICIALS

People communicate with their legislators in many ways. Some people make appointments to meet with their legislators for a discussion about important issues. While this is probably the most effective way to share your ideas, it just is not possible or practical for many people. But calling and writing your legislators are also effective ways to tell them about an issue. Writing a letter provides a very personal touch but the convenience of email has allowed many more people to communicate quickly and effectively with their legislators.

You can get information on your legislators by going to <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/>. If you're not sure who your legislators are, you can find out by typing your address in the boxes under Find My Legislator on the right side of the screen. The web site will have your Senator's and your Representatives mailing address, email address, and phone number.

Note - If you do not have access to a computer, your Family Support Coordinator can help you do this.

What to say in your meeting, phone call, letter or email:

There is nothing that will make a better impression on your legislator than your family's personal story. If you're comfortable doing this, tell the legislator about your family. Provide information about your family's personal experience with the Family Support Program. If you're talking on behalf of a family member who receives Family Support, it is often effective to show a picture of the family member who is either receiving or waiting for Family Support Program services. Tell how the program has helped your family. If the loss of the program would harm your family or make your life harder, say so. Tell your legislators that the program helps you (or your family member with a disability) to stay with the family in their home and in their local community.

Sharing your very personal story and asking your legislator to restore funding for Family Support might be enough to help make a difference. But there are some important facts about the program that would be very useful to include. If you use the information below, please feel free to write it in your own words.

So many people are helped by the program

On a statewide basis, the Family Support Program provides services to over 4,500 families like yours each year. Every one of those families will lose services if the program is not funded next year.

So many other people also need the program

There are presently 3,593 people who are on a waiting list for the program.

Big bang for not so many bucks

With the small amount of funding each family receives, it makes a tremendous difference in their lives. It prevents many families from needing more expensive services.

The program is very cost effective. The annual average benefit last year was \$1,387 per person.

The Family Support Program is the cheapest home and community based program for people with disabilities in the state.

One of the ways that helps save money is that the program is self-directed. Once a service is approved, the person or family hires their own providers and purchases their own supplies which keeps program costs down.

Other service options

The Family Support Program serves people with all types of disabilities and all ages.

Your State Legislators contact information

SULLIVAN & JOHNSON COUNTY

Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey

3311 Highway 126
Blountville, TN 37617
423-323-8700

301 6TH Avenue North
Suite 1 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243
1-800-449-8366 Ext. 14524

lt.gov.ron.ramsey@capitol.tn.gov

Rep. Scotty Campbell

632 South Shady Street
Mountain City, TN 37683

301 6th Avenue North
Suite 107 War Memorialbldg
Nashville, TN. 37243
1-800-449-8366 Ext. 12050

rep.scotty.campbell@capitol.tn.gov

SULLIVAN ONLY

Rep. Tony Shipley

P.O. Box 6173
Kingsport, TN. 37663

301 6th Avenue North
Suite 114 War Memorial Bldg.
Nashville, TN 37243
1-800-449-8366 Ext. 12886

rep.tony.shipley@capitol.tn.gov

SULLIVAN ONLY

Rep. Jon Lundberg

212 Skyline Drive
Bristol, TN. 37620

301 6th Avenue North
Suite 20 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN. 37243-0104
1-800-449-8366 Ext. 17623

rep.jon.lundberg@capital.tn.gov

HANCOCK AND HAWKINS COUNTY

Senator Mike Faulk

112 East Main Blvd.
Church Hill, TN. 37642
423-357-8088

301 6th Avenue North
Suite 10-A Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN. 37243
1-800-449-8366 Ext. 12061

Sen.mike.faulk@capitol.tn.gov

Rep. Mike Harrison

115 Green Acres Drive
Rogersville, TN. 37857
423-235-6803

301 6th Avenue North
Suite 206-A War Memorial Bldg
Nashville, TN 37243
1-800-449-8366 Ext 17480

Rep.Mike.Harrison@Capitol.tn.gov



TN Budget as a Balloon

Predicting Tennessee's budget for the next fiscal year based on the recent State Budget Hearings: we are facing a cut to essential health services. Advocates are concerned that after these cuts take place, more Tennesseans will be forced to seek treatment in hospital emergency rooms, and more will enroll in TennCare, which will mean increasing health care expenditures by the state in the long-run. Even more worrisome is the suffering of these members of our community whose lives will be directly impacted when the health care they rely on is no longer available to them.

"It's like a balloon... you can squeeze in one place, but it pops out in another," said Carol Westlake, Executive Director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition in a Tennessean article on the state budget.

The Family Support Program, for example, was not allocated funding in the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities budget proposal. The low cost program provides a small amount (on average just \$1,387 annually) to families who need the support to care for their family member with a disability in their home, preventing the need for more comprehensive and, therefore, much more expensive services. The de-funding of this program will literally break apart families.

Taken from the Tennessee Disability Coalition News Letter.



110 East Mount castle Drive
Suite 1
Johnson City, TN 37601

Phone: 423-928-9362
Fax: 423-928-7431
Email: Linda@arcwc.org

**URGENT FOR FAMILIES
RECEIVING/WAITING
FOR ASSISTANCE FROM
THE FAMILY SUPPORT
PROGRAM**

**Rally to save
family support!!!**