



CALL TO ADVOCACY

Colorado's budget crisis is hitting home for families across our state. The time is **NOW to share your story! Every Coloradoan deserves to live with dignity and thrive in their communities.**

What happened?

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) had their figure setting hearing on Thursday March 12th for Health Care Policy and Finance's (HCPF) Office of Community Living (OCL). Figure setting is when the Joint Budget Committee and the state department meet to decide what funds will be allocated to HCPF for the next fiscal year.

In addition to cuts in IDD services, the committee approved a soft cap on hours for HCBS services including homemakers and personal care. The committee deadlocked on two requests: client cost sharing for residential services and individual residential services and supports. Additional Department requests included, but were not limited to, **reductions in funding** for:

- ✓ Select HCBS, for the implementation of caps on annual use.
 - ✓ The automatic enrollment to the DD waiver of youth who age out of the CES waiver.
 - ✓ DD waiver waitlist enrollments.
 - ✓ Caregiving services with the implementation of a cap on the paid weekly hours.
 - ✓ A community connector rate cut of 15.0 percent.
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Why does it matter?

The budget cuts discussed during figure setting could affect our loved ones' ability to receive the appropriate health care services and supports they need to thrive in their community.

What can I do?

Share your story! How would these budget cuts affect you and the people you love?

Our legislators need to hear from you! Here are a few ideas:

- **Send a short video** telling your story- introduce them to your loved one and tell them how they use services and supports
- **Email your story and include pictures** of your loved one: JBC.GA@coleg.gov
Chair: emily.sirota.house@coleg.gov kyle.brown.house@coleg.gov
Vice Chair: jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov rick.taggart.house@coleg.gov
barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov
- **Call your legislator** and **ask them to share your story** with the **Joint Budget Committee**

Make sure you copy in YOUR legislator. Don't know who your legislator is? **Find YOUR legislator** and their contact information HERE: <https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>

What happens next?

While we may not be able to shift the outcome of the budget, it is important that those in leadership understand what is at stake.

Our stories matter. Our loved ones matter. You matter.

Send your story today!