June 23, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Stakeholders:

The campaign, #DontCutUsOut is to ensure that our safety net continues.

It is close to the end of June and we have no idea of the additional funding available for day and employment programs across the state. Agencies can ONLY be paid by the Commonwealth for services they deliver each day. However, re-opening after this COVID pandemic requires partial attendance, more space between people, smaller groups in vehicles and in buildings, significant cleaning supplies, etc. And, partial attendance means group homes will continue to need staff during the day for which they do NOT receive funding. Our programs are primarily funded by the state.

None of these costs have been allocated. Some agencies have begun laying off staff to afford the new costs. Without new funds, either people will lose services (including delays for those Turning 22) or services will be significantly reduced.

Some agencies will close. A high number of adults with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other conditions will be affected and their families.
1. 10,000 persons who receive day and employment services
2. 9,000 individuals in congregate living
3. 1,300 new students in transition from high school to adult life
4. 11,000 receiving MassHealth day habilitation (some of the 11,000 have part-time services here and through DDS)

The network of services will not recover if decisions for additional funds and flexible policies are delayed. Please respond to #DontCutUsOut and send an email to the Governor with copies to Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Spilka.

Fill out the template at the link below to contact Governor Baker, Speaker DeLeo, and Senate President Spilka regarding the urgent need for funding.

https://cqrcengage.com/thearcma/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=508435

Thank you,

[Signature]

President and Chief Executive Officer