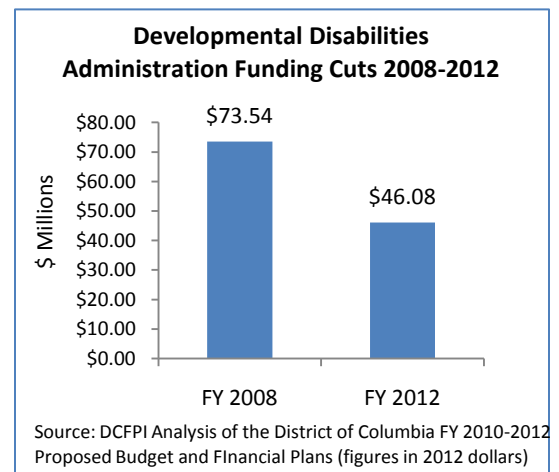


The Cost of Cuts to District Disability Services

Budget cuts since the start of the recession in 2008 have left many District agencies with limited funds and reduced services. These cuts have affected services for some of the District's most vulnerable residents, like individuals with disabilities. Overall funding for the Department of Disability Services fell more than 30 percent between 2008 and 2011. Resources in the department have been spread thin, causing home care services, which help individuals with disabilities live independently, and employment rehabilitation services to suffer. The proposed budget for FY 2012 holds funding for the Department of Disability Services at FY 2011 funding levels after adjusting for inflation, keeping funds and services at reduced levels.

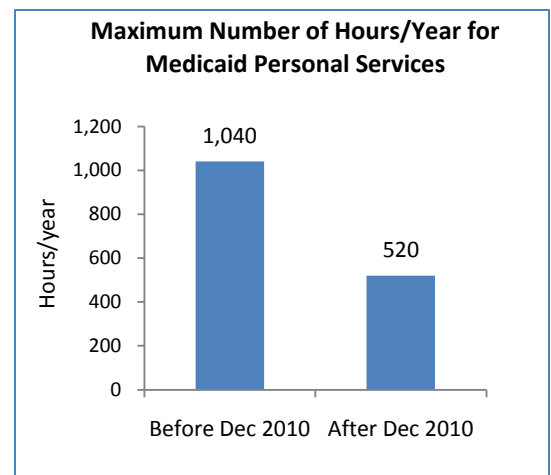
BUDGET SHORTFALLS HAVE LED TO CUTS IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

- ❖ The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), which supports individuals with intellectual disabilities through home and community services, has seen its funds cut by over 35 percent, totaling \$25 million, since 2008.
- ❖ Cuts to DDA's budget have led to reductions in clinical services and forced DDA to start a waiting list for home and community-based Medicaid waiver services for the first time in its history. The FY 2012 budget holds funding for DDA near 2011 levels, indicating no signs of improvement for services.



MEDICAID SERVICE CUTS IMPACT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES RELYING ON IN-HOME CARE

- ❖ In December 2010, the Department of Health Care Finance cut Medicaid personal care in-home services, which allow for people with disabilities to live independently, in half by reducing the maximum number of hours per year from 1,040 hours to 520 hours. This means that eligible people with disabilities can get no more than 10 hours of help per week.
- ❖ Many individuals with disabilities rely on the in-home Medicaid personal care services while waiting for acceptance in a special Medicaid program for extended in-home services.¹ The cut in maximum hours means many people with disabilities will reach their limit for personal care services before they are granted access to the Medicaid program's services.



¹ The Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver allows states to provide certain Medicaid services to select populations, like individuals with disabilities. Waiver approval for extended services can take many months.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES CUT FOR OVER 700 RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- ❖ The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) provides job counseling, development, placement, and retention services to eligible individuals with disabilities in the District.
- ❖ The FY 2011 budget cut the Rehabilitation Services Administration local funds for maintenance of effort by \$2 million. As a result, the agency's federal grant is likely to be reduced by an additional \$2 million in FY 2012. This \$4 million cut means that RSA will no longer be able to serve approximately 740 individuals.

ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES HAS BEEN CUT BY MORE THAN HALF — AND MAY BE ELIMINATED IN 2012

- ❖ The Interim Disability Assistance program offers \$270 a month (30 percent of the poverty level) to residents with disabilities who have no other income and are applying for federal disability assistance. Some 37 states offer interim assistance because the application for federal benefits often is lengthy.
- ❖ Some 2,900 residents received IDA assistance in 2008, but that has fallen to 1,300 as a result of budget cuts.
- ❖ The FY 2012 budget would suspend the IDA program, meaning that IDA participants enrolled at the end of FY 2011 will have all benefits terminated, even if federal benefits have not yet been approved.

