



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RELL INITIATES DEVASTATING CUTS TO COMMUNITY PROVIDERS
Proposed human services cuts in deficit mitigation plan places additional burden on community-based human service system

“Governor Rell’s proposed deficit mitigation plan will have a devastating effect on Connecticut’s providers of human services and the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable individuals who rely upon them for help.

Community providers provide vital services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders, among other significant challenges.

The Governor’s Deficit Reduction proposal and rescissions will have an immediate effect on services for thousands of people with serious healthcare needs. The system is already stretched dangerously thin with three years of flat funding coupled with decades of underfunding and increasing operating costs.

Not only do these massive cuts threaten the health and safety of the individuals served by community providers, they threaten the long-term stability of the entire community provider safety net which saves the state millions of dollars each year. Community providers can and should figure prominently in the development of a long-term solution to managing the state budget. By caring for people in need in their communities, community providers reduce emergency room visits, long term hospital stays and the need for more expensive services.

We urge the Governor and the Legislature to reconsider these cuts which put people’s lives and well being in jeopardy and will end up costing the state more in the long-run as many clients who lose access to services will have to seek services in more costly settings.

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