



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUPPORT BUILDS FOR COMMUNITY PROVIDER RESCUE FUND

Providers, families, clients ask Legislature for proper funding.

Families, clients and community provider organizations represented by the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) will conduct a news conference Tuesday to build legislative support for the Community Provider Rescue Fund. They are seeking adequate funding to Connecticut's human service providers, to support essential services and protect the people they serve. A bill to establish a Community Provider Rescue Fund is being considered for the second year in a row.

Governor M. Jodi Rell's budget proposal, unveiled in February, maintained level funding for most community provider accounts, but made other cuts in the safety net for people with disabilities.

The problem of inadequate funding is an issue the full Legislature must address. If the Governor's budget recommendation becomes law, it will result in three straight years of level funding at a time of rising costs and increased need for services. This is putting severe strain on a system that is already stretched to the limit.

"We need legislative help to rescue many clients from the consequences of an under-funded system," said Terry Edelstein, CEO and President of the Connecticut Community Providers Association. "Every single lawmaker has a constituent who is being affected by this situation. We need proper funding to stem this healthcare crisis."

Community providers deliver human services in every Connecticut city and town. Clients include people with mental illness, substance use disorders, developmental and physical disabilities. CCPA surveys of provider agencies show many have reduced services, cut the size of their workforce and taken other steps to control costs due to decades of under-funding by state government. During the current economic downturn, inadequate funding puts an even greater strain on the system because demand for the services provided by the community providers increase.

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