



# The Consumer Connection

## Governor's May Revised Budget

The Governor's proposed 2008-09 budget includes a total of \$4.967 billion in IHSS expenditures, which represents a 7% increase over the amount appropriated in the 2007-08 budget. State General Fund expenditures are proposed at \$1.505 billion for the IHSS program and the remaining funds come from federal and county sources. Basically this means that the cost of IHSS is rising as well as the number of people accessing the service. As you are very well aware when someone applies for IHSS it is because there is need for assistance in activities of daily living. Without this essential program many consumers of IHSS would be at risk of ending up in a nursing home or other institutional setting. There are four significant cuts proposed by the Governor in his revised IHSS budget that would reduce program funding by a total of \$395.8 million (\$274.1 million from the State General Fund). The proposed cuts would result in:

- Permanent elimination of IHSS domestic and related services for consumers with a functional index level below 4 (this includes housekeeping, laundry, shopping and meal preparation)
- Permanent increase in the Share of Cost Buy-Out for many consumers
- Rollback of State participation in IHSS wages and benefits to minimum wage of \$8.00 per hour
- 10% reduction in county administrative costs for IHSS

And if these proposed cuts are not dramatic enough the Governor is also proposing:

- Elimination of the October 2008 and June 2009 state cost of living adjustments (COLAs) and withhold the 2009 federal share of the SSI COLA
- Elimination of Medi-Cal optional benefits such as dental services for adults, acupuncture, chiropractic services, optometry services, podiatry, psychology services and others.
- Medi-Cal 10% reduction in rates paid to providers which will make it harder for people who use Medi-Cal to get care because some providers may stop serving people who use Medi-Cal

The next few months will be critical for all consumers of IHSS and other essential services as mentioned above. These proposed cuts will be discussed extensively by our state legislators. If you are interested in letting them know how these cuts will impact you then you may want to come to the Town Hall Meeting scheduled June 5th. See detailed information inside this newsletter.

The **IHSS Coalition** is an advocacy group made up of a diversity of organizations and individuals dedicated to the essential IHSS program. This year the coalition is working together to fight the State budget cuts to the IHSS program. If you want to stay apprised of the most recent information go to [www.ihsscalifornia.org](http://www.ihsscalifornia.org)

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### Advisory Board

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*Sondra Corday*

*Bharat Desai*

*JoAnn Disbrow*

*David Julian*

*Kai Lu*

*Shannon Odom*

*Richard Patterson*

*James Ramoni (ex-officio)*

*Janie Whiteford*

## **A message from Assembly member Jim Beall's office:**

California faces a budget crisis that threatens our educational system and the safety net for our poor, elderly, and people with disabilities. We need your help to ensure that the budget is fair and that it is not unfairly balanced on the backs of our children, the elderly, disabled and women.

The proposed 10% across-the-board cuts will have a cascading affect on our most vulnerable Californians, multiplying their pain with each cut to every service they use. Nearly \$4 out of every \$10 in cuts affects services and programs that help low-income residents.

As you know, the proposed budget cuts would impact IHSS consumers disproportionately. For example the Governor has proposed to:

- 18% reduction of IHSS domestic and related service hours.

- Reduction of the SSI/SSP COLA, which people depend on for basic needs.

- Reduction in Medi-Cal services including critical services such as dental coverage which is directly related to a persons overall health are slated to be discontinued. This will ultimately result in higher healthcare costs.

- Other services such as mental health, MSSP case management and other programs/services in place to help this population remain living independent lives will be cut or eliminated resulting in further disproportionate impact to their lives.

When the Governor says it is fair to cut all programs across the board he is not seeing the true impact this kind of proposal will have on frail elderly and people with disabilities.

Come to the town meeting and tell us how this crisis should be handled and we will take your ideas to Sacramento! Bring your clients, relatives, friends, and co-workers to this important meeting. I am hosting this meeting along with my colleagues, Assemblymembers Joe Coto, Sally Lieber, Ira Ruskin, and Alberto Torrico.

Get involved in the budget process!

**Thursday, June 5th  
4p.m. to 6:30p.m.**

**Center for Employment Training Multipurpose Room  
701 Vine Street  
San Jose, CA 95110**

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# BUDGET TOWN HALL

**Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
4p.m. to 6:30p.m.**

**Center for Employment Training  
Multipurpose Room  
701 Vine Street  
San Jose, CA 95110**

**Please join Assemblymembers  
Jim Beall, Joe Coto, Sally Lieber,  
Ira Ruskin, and Alberto Torrico**

at a town hall to examine California's budget crisis and its impact on our communities.

Get involved in the budget process. Ensure that the budget is fair; that it is not unfairly balanced on the backs of our children, the elderly, disabled and our women and men in uniform.

For more information please contact  
(408) 282-8920.

Please visit: [adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/budget](http://adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/budget)

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## IHSS Consumer Stories Pour In

In the last edition of this Consumer Connection Newsletter we offered to collect your stories about how a budget cut and reduction of IHSS hours would affect you. As you can see we have hundreds of stories and will share them on your behalf with the Governor and the Legislature as planned.

Your voice counts.

### \*\*\*CAREGIVER TRAINING IS AVAILABLE\*\*\*

**Earn your Caregiver Certificate: please call to register:  
408-350-3206**

**Những cơ hội huấn luyện miễn phí cho nhân viên dịch vụ vẫn còn hiện hữu  
Muốn biết thêm tin tức về các lớp học xin gọi để ghi danh. 408-350-3253.**

**Oportunidades de entrenamiento gratuito para proveedores de cuidado.  
Sigue disponible.**

**Para inscripciones favor de llamar al 408-350-3206**

## Coming Soon: Provider Orientation & Education

Soon the Public Authority will be offering orientation meetings for providers. New providers will be expected to attend the orientation to learn about the IHSS program. We will cover topics including how to fill out timecards and keep your paychecks on time, benefits available to providers and how to apply for them, payroll deductions, provider mandatory reporting responsibilities and many other aspects of the IHSS program.

## Visit the IHSS Coalition Website: [www.ihsscalifornia.org](http://www.ihsscalifornia.org)

The IHSS Coalition is an advocacy group made up of stakeholders in the California IHSS program. A diversity of organizations and individuals make up the coalition. This year, the coalition is working together to fight the State budget cuts to the IHSS program. The Public Authority of Santa Clara County is one of many members of this coalition. Visit the website to learn more about the budget: [www.ihsscalifornia.org](http://www.ihsscalifornia.org)

## IHSS Registry: Here to Assist You in Locating Providers

The Public Authority Registry recruits, screens and refers providers to consumers of IHSS. IHSS consumers should contact the registry when in need of someone to provide the services authorized by the IHSS social worker. The registry has the ability to match consumers with providers in their area and will send a list of individuals to call and interview. The registry is here to help! Call 408-296-8290 and ask for the registry.



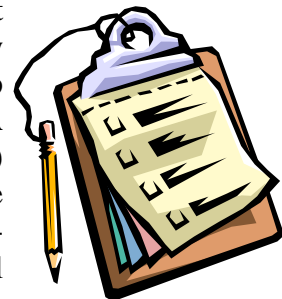
## ☀ Heat Related Illness ☀

With temperatures rising take extra precautions to avoid heat related illnesses:

- Drink plenty of liquids (not alcohol)
- Stay in air conditioned areas such as malls, libraries, community centers
- Limit physical activity to morning and evening hours
- If you feel very hot cool off by taking a cool shower or bath
- If you must be in outside wear a wide-brimmed vented hat or umbrella
- Wear sunglasses and sunscreen
- Rest often in shady areas

## ☰ Survey Update ☰

Thank you to everyone who filled out their survey forms! The IHSS Advisory Board is working with a research group to conduct and analyze two surveys. A random sample of IHSS IPs (workers) and consumers were asked to fill in the survey form. We had an excellent response. Thank you! This survey will help the Advisory Board evaluate the needs of the IHSS program in Santa Clara County and we'll be sharing the results with you in future newsletters.



## Urgent Care Registry

The Urgent Care Registry (UCR) is available to IHSS consumers who have at least 50 hours of authorized services per month, and have no one else capable of providing the service. The UCR fills in when the regular IP does not show up for work and the consumer has no one else to provide the service on a limited basis. The UCR does not fill in for vacations. UCR is available everyday between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 pm.

Call 408-590-0834 to contact the Urgent Care Registry.



## Join Us at a Consumer Class!

- WHEN:** The third Wednesday of every month: May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug 20th.
- WHERE:** Council on Aging Silicon Valley, 2115 The Alameda, San Jose, CA
- WHO:** Consumer, their providers, and family members. Get your questions answered.
- WHAT:** What is IHSS? How Does it Work? What is the Public Authority and How Can It Help Me?

**OTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:** We are available to do presentations in other settings; your senior apartment complex, your senior community center, other agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, and congregate living facilities for people with disabilities.

**PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE A SPOT AT THESE CLASSES: (408) 350-3206**





IHSS Public Authority  
2115 The Alameda  
San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: 408-350-3206  
Fax: 408-296-8340  
Email: [info@publicauthoritysantaclara.org](mailto:info@publicauthoritysantaclara.org)  
[www.publicauthoritysantaclara.org](http://www.publicauthoritysantaclara.org)

## Important Phone Numbers

**Public Authority:** Call for information concerning provider benefits, Eco Pass, training or other services of the Public Authority. **408-350-3206**

**Registry:** Call if you want to join the Registry or to report any changes if you are already listed on the Registry. **408-296-8290**

**IHSS Social Services:** Call for information regarding authorized hours/services or to speak with a social worker. **408-975-4899**

**IHSS Payroll:** Call for any payroll matter. **408-975-4899**

**UNION SEIU Local 521:** Representing providers. Call for information about the Union & payroll deductions. **408-954-8715**

**Adult Protective Services 24-hour Hotline:** Call for help if you or someone you know suspect abuse of a senior or dependent adult. **408-975-4900 or 1-800-414-2002**

**Information and Assistance:** Call to obtain information on available services in Santa Clara County. (In county only) **408-296-8290 or 1-800-510-2020**

