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## Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Visits Students at The Allegro Autism School in Cedar Knolls

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

**Trenton, NJ** – Demonstrating the Christie Administration's support of community-based services for citizens with developmental disabilities, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today visited The Allegro School in Cedar Knolls. The Allegro School provides educational services to approximately 105 individuals with autism between 3 and 21 years of age and assists students with their transition to less restrictive school settings.

"I applaud the work The Allegro School is doing to prepare students with developmental disabilities for community living while keeping them together with their families," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "Governor Christie and I believe that services provided within the community offer these students the best chance to maximize their potential to lead richer, fuller lives. This is why the Christie Administration has invested nearly \$100 million in new funding to expand community-based services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families."

Governor Christie recognizes the unique needs of every New Jersey resident with a developmental disability, and has expressed a steadfast commitment to help them lead richer and fuller lives. The Governor has fundamentally changed the way services and programs support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by moving away from a system that has historically focused on institutionalization to one that emphasizes home and community-based services and supports. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget proposes to provide \$41.8 million of new State and federal funding to develop additional community placements and services for a projected 788 individuals. This funding also supports clients who turn 21 and no longer are eligible for education entitlements.

"Many of our students have challenging behaviors that interfere with learning and community access," said Deborah C. Lewinson, M.A., executive director for Allegro School & Programs. "Teachers and behavior analysts work extensively with our students and their families to develop behavior strategies that promote learning and the development of appropriate behaviors in the community."

Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget reflects his ongoing commitment to provide critical programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, including:

**Increasing Resources for Community-Based Care** to provide \$41.8 million of new state and federal funding to develop additional community placements and services, for a projected 788 individuals. An additional \$21.3 million is proposed to pay for placements that occurred during Fiscal Year 2013 and a total of \$19.7 million in new state and federal funding will support the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Olmstead initiatives.

**Increasing Funding for Support Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities** through the continued integration of programs under the new Division of Children's System of Care in the Department of Children and Families. An additional \$1.5 million has been provided in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget for placement services.

**Identifying, Diagnosing and Caring for Children with Autism** by providing \$86 million for the Early Intervention Program, aimed at identifying, diagnosing and caring for children from birth to age three with autism and other developmental disabilities.

**Providing Transition Services for Adults.** The Christie Administration has dedicated funding for young adults with developmental disabilities who age out of the Department of Education's special education entitlement by ensuring a seamless transition to the Department of Human Services' adult day-programming.

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