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What They're Saying: Empowering New Jerseyans With Developmental Disabilities

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Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

What They're Saying:

Empowering New Jerseyans With Developmental Disabilities

Governor's Christie Budget Reflects His "Continued Commitment To People With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities"

The Arc of New Jersey's President Walter Bender: "I am so grateful for this and I know that many other families are as well. I ask you, on their behalf and mine, please support the funding the Governor has put in his proposed budget." (Testimony before Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, 3/5/2013)

"We are very grateful for the Governor's continued commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to increased community living. In a very difficult budget year, and with the backdrop of Hurricane Sandy, this year's budget increases mean all that much more."

The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Thomas Baffuto: "We are very grateful and appreciative that many of the needs of individuals with intellectual and other development disabilities were addressed in Governor Christie's proposed budget this year." (Testimony before Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, 3/5/2013)

"The Governor's proposal includes \$41.8 million in new money to serve individuals on the waiting list, emergencies, and individuals aging out of their educational entitlement. The Department of Human Services expects that they will be able to service approximately 788 individuals with this new money."

"The Governor's budget proposal also includes \$19.7 million for the State's *Olmstead* community. This should support approximately 140 moving out of institutions and into the community."

"In addition, the FY14 budget includes \$5.2 million for the Department of Children and Families, \$1.5 million of which will go toward services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

"We are thankful that the Governor has made individuals with developmental disabilities a priority in his budget."

The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network's Colleen Watkins: "When the Governor announced a proposed \$83M increase in the Department of Human Services budget, I felt like I was on cloud nine. The Governor's proposed \$83M increase in funding for supports and services in the community would help so many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in the community, like me." (Testimony before Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, 3/5/2013)

"I appreciate the Governor tells it like it is. In his budget address, Governor Christie stated that he believes in people with disabilities having the right to choose where they live and to receive supports and services in the community. He knows that people with disabilities can live, work and thrive in the community. I am proof of that belief."

"Governor Christie knows what he's talking about. Please don't cut the funding that he has included in his 2014 budget for the Department of Human Services. The lives of people with disabilities would be improved if community providers received additional funding. ... The funding included in the state budget gives me the opportunity to work in the community, live in the community, and do fun activities in the community."

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"It is time for good changes in New Jersey. People with disabilities need the Governor's proposed funding because we need employment opportunities in the community, more residential placements in the community."

Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial: "Gov. Christie's \$32.9 billion budget shows sincere concern for New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens ... [Governor Christie] offered new housing for the disabled...." (Editorial, "N.J. budget is hit-and-miss," Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/3/2013)

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