

ACTION ALERT!!

Update on Protected Income Level: The budget conference committee started its work Wednesday. They will resume their deliberations when they reconvene Monday. Next week will be all floor work and conference committees.

The House budget proposal includes \$12.4 million, including \$5.3 million from the State General Fund (SGF) to increase the PIL to 150% of SSI; the Senate budget does not. This would allow persons to keep income up to \$1,177/month, an increase from the currently capped \$747/month.

In addition to increased funding for the Protected Income Level, the House budget includes:

- An additional \$13.4 million, including \$5.5 million SGF, for a 2% increase for HCBS providers
- An additional \$6 million, including \$2.5 million from SGF, to reduce the waiting lists for persons being served under the Intellectual/Developmental Disability and the Physically Disabled waivers.
- An additional \$13.6 million, including \$5.6 million SGF, to provide a 2% increase in the reimbursement rates for nursing facilities.
- An additional \$4.8 million, including \$2 million SGF, to increase the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility provider reimbursement rates by 2%

First ACTION: Over the weekend we ask that you and customers contact senators, particularly those senators serving on the Budget Conference Committee -- Sen. McGinn, Sen. Billinger and Sen. Hawk (Contact info below)-- to ask them to accept the House position on the Protected Income Level and the other House budget items. It is vital that these three hear from a lot of people!!

Second ACTION: Because the Senate knows little about this issue, we recommend that you also contact members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee (list below) to explain why this is such an important issue for so many people.

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chair, Sedgwick, district 31, Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov, home 316-772-0147

Senator Rick Billinger, Vice Chair, Goodland, district 40, Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov, home not given

Senator Tom Hawk, Ranking Minority, Manhattan, district 22, Tom.Hawk@senate.ks.gov home 785-537-8000

Senator Larry Alley, Winfield, district 32, Larry.Alley@senate.ks.gov home 620-221-0035

Senator Ed Berger, Hutchinson, district 34 , Ed.Berger@senate.ks.gov home 620-665-7687

Senator Kevin Braun, Kansas City, district 5, Kevin.Braun@senate.ks.gov home not given

Senator Jim Denning, Overland Park, district 8, Jim.Denning@senate.ks.gov home 913-345-9416

Senator Dan Goddard, Parsons, district 15, Dan.Goddard@senate.ks.gov home not given

Senator Anthony Hensley, Topeka, district 19, Anthony.Hensley@senate.ks.gov 785-232-1944

Senator Dan Kerschen, Garden Plain, district 26, Dan.Kerschen@senate.ks.gov 316-535-2310

Senator Pat Pettey, Kansas City, district 6, Pat.Pettey@senate.ks.gov 913-579-3741

Senator John Skubal, Overland Park, district 11, John.Skubal@senate.ks.gov 913-469-6641

Senator Gene Suellentrop, Wichita, district 27, Gene.Suellentrop@senate.ks.gov 316-260-3663

Last, but certainly not least, please contact House budget conference committee members to thank them for their support of our issues listed above in the House budget and ask them to hold fast to the House position. Those members are: Rep. Waymaster, Rep. Hoffman and Rep. Wolfe Moore

Rep. Waymaster, office 785 296-7672, home 785-483-2822, troy.waymaster@house.ks.gov

Rep. Hoffman, office 785 296-7643, home 620-582-2217, kyle.hoffman@house.ks.gov

Rep. Wolfe Moore, office 785 296-0424, home 913-721-3655, kathy.wolfemoore@house.ks.gov

This seems like a lot but we are in the House budget, now we need to get the Senate to agree it is important to eliminate the Client Obligation. We can DO this!!!