

# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Executive Director Report

January 21, 2025

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# Overview

- LA Fires: Status, SCDD Activity, and NACDD/CFF Activity
- Update on Phasing Subminimum Wage
- Update on 2025 Policy Priorities
- 2024 SCDD Impact
- Federal Update
- Announcements

# New Year: Resolutions

**Illness**  
vs  
**Wellness**

# New Year: Connection and Community

**I**llness  
vs  
**W**ellness

# LA Fires: Status

- All 1,461 people with IDD subject to evacuation orders have been contacted.
  - All are accounted for
- We're getting a better sense of the fire's damage:
  - 1 death of a person with IDD along with his parent,
  - 222 people with IDD homes burned,
  - 711 people with IDD and their families are still under evacuation orders,
  - 12 residential facilities burned, impacting 57 individuals,
  - 2 family home agencies burned,
  - It's almost impossible to capture the impacts on DSPs.
- SCDD Councilmembers and staff are safe.
  - No Councilmembers needed to evacuate
  - Three staff needed to evacuate
    - All are back in their homes, one home experienced significant damage

# LA Fires: SCDD Activity

- State level coordination with the Governor's Office, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Department of Developmental Services
- Locally, SCDD LA Staff conducting ongoing needs assessments
- Needs shared with officials
- DD Councils nationally asked how they can help.
  - The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities organized a donation drive
  - The Colin Farrell Foundation joined to sponsor the drive
- Launched on Saturday January 18
  - 370 items donated, valued at \$10,300
- Items delivered by Amazon to SCDD LA Office, get it directly to people in need

# LA Fires: NACDD & CFF Activity



# LA Fires: NACDD & CFF Activity



The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and The Colin Farrell Foundation are partnering to **support Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities affected by the LA Fires.**

**Together, NACDD and CFF have opened a California Wildfires Wishlist. Items will be sent to the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities to distribute to those in need.**

No cash donations will be accepted.

 **NACDD**  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

**+**

 *Colin Farrell*  
Foundation

# LA Fires: NACDD & CFF Activity

A photograph of a wildfire with a blue text overlay. The background shows a fire burning in a field of dry grass and trees, with smoke rising into the air. The text overlay is a dark blue rectangle with white text.

Essential Items needed:

- Air purifiers
- Sensory items
- Diapers across all age ranges
- Cleaning wipes
- Menstrual products

No cash donations will be accepted.

 NACDD  
National Association of Councils  
on Developmental Disabilities

+

 Calvin Farrell  
Foundation

# LA Fires: NACDD & CFF Activity



# Update on Phasing Out Subminimum Wage

- SCDD co-sponsored legislation to phase out subminimum wage (SB 639 Durazo)
- No one is to be paid less than minimum wage by January 2025!
- News: DDS Reports no is being paid subminimum wage anymore!
- Where did people go?
  - Over 700 people who were making subminimum wage are now making minimum wage!
  - Over 500 people are in a training program for people leaving a sheltered workshop
  - 500 are in a day or lookalike program
- Note: The Employment First Office Defunded as part of 2024-45 budget savings

# Update on 2025 Priorities

Policy analyses and research for ideas/issues submitted through the ***There Should Be a Law Contest*** have been conducted. The identified priorities include:

- **Plain Language:** Drafted legislative language requiring state agencies to use plain language in their materials for the public; Seeking a legislative author.
- ***Exceptional Medically Underserved Population (EMUP)*.** Some individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have exceptional medical needs. If individuals with IDD are designated federally as part of the “exceptional medically underserved population,” disparities in health care services could be addressed, such as providing additional funding for programs and research. A variety of strategies are being explored to make this a reality.
- **Chronic Absenteeism in Schools:** Chronic absenteeism policies impact some students with disabilities and the Policy Unit is evaluating if and how changes are needed.

# 2024 SCDD Impact



## 2024 SCDD HIGHLIGHTS

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- **9,323,902** CALIFORNIANS IMPACTED
- **78,000** PEOPLE REACHED VIA IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS, CHATS, AND EVENTS
- **20,961** PEOPLE TRAINED
- **13,300** ADVISED ON SOLVING THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS
- **1,488** ACTIVITIES FOR TARGETED DISPARITIES
- COLLABORATED WITH **1,347** COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- PROVIDED TRAINING AND RESOURCES IN **16** LANGUAGES

# Federal Update

What we do today is the same as yesterday

....and will be the same tomorrow

- Rely on our values
- Look for opportunities
- Remember our allies
- Respond to ideas when proposed

# Federal Update

- Ideas to change Medicaid funding coming soon
  - Almost all ideas so far would result in less funding for Medicaid
- In California, Medicaid dollars from Congress fund:
  - Home and Community Based Services (regional centers, self determination)
  - In Home Support Services (IHSS)
  - Medi-Cal
  - ...many other programs that help children, pregnant women
- On January 14, press reported a plan by Congress to cut \$5 trillion from Medicaid

# Federal Update

#1 Medicaid Block Grants

#2 Decrease amount of Federal Medicaid dollars (FMAP) going to states

#3 Limit amount of Medicaid dollars that can be spent on one person (per capita or lifetime cap)

#4 Law or policy changes to make it easier for states to cut Medicaid or keep people out of Medicaid programs

#5 Stop states from using money from Provider Taxes and other sources as part of state Medicaid match

#6 Change what must be covered under Affordable Care Act (ACA)

#7 Stop Federal money that lowers Affordable Care Act (ACA) premiums

#8 Lower or stop Federal funding for Medicaid expansion population

# Federal Update

- These ideas mean much less Federal Medicaid money would come to states to help run state Medicaid programs:
  - Per Capita Caps,
  - less federal money to states to run Medicaid programs (FMAP),
  - changing how states can use provider taxes
- These ideas would make large cuts right away and cuts to state Medicaid programs would deepen over time:
  - Per Capita Caps (the same amount of money does not buy the same amount of services as the costs go up).
- This idea could change who and what is covered under Medicaid
  - Law and policy changes that make it easier for states to cut Medicaid programs (making some populations or benefits optional, work requirements etc.)

# Federal Update

- Timeline is quick
- Both U.S. Senate and House want to use the “budget reconciliation” process. A budget reconciliation can be passed with half of the House and half of the Senate approving it. A traditional budget bill needs half the House and 60% of the Senate.
- The House wants to do one bill, the Senate wants to do two. Either way, cuts are expected to be part of the proposals.



# Announcements

- SCDD Budget continues to be sound, monitored by Executive Committee
- Welcome Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director Policy and Communications
- Welcome Jennifer Lucas, Manager Central Coast Region
- Recruitment for the Manager San Diego Imperial Region continues

THANK YOU!

*Thank you*

