

ADVOCACY STRATEGY

MAY 2024 - VILLA ESPERANZA SERVICES

At a Glance

MAY REVISE BUDGET	LEGISLATURE	UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES	HOW VILLA COULD BE MORE INVOLVED	THE FUTURE OF VILLA ADVOCACY
				

May Revise Budget

What Happened?

On May 10, 2024, Governor Newsom released the [May Revise Budget](#). In the May Revise, Newsom proposes delaying previously promised funds for supporting developmentally disabled services as a way to reduce the state's budget deficit. Newsom proposes postponing \$613 million in pay increases for about 150,000 disability care workers for a year, forgoing an additional \$408 million in Medicaid reimbursements – this would be a loss of over \$1 billion – the largest suggested cut in the May Revise. The new budget proposal risks a collapse of the developmental disability service system.

History of Issue

In 1969, California passed the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act. This was made to entitle any person with developmental disability and their families to services that would help them live an inclusive life. In 2021, the Lanterman Coalition pushed for higher reimbursement rates for the services provided to the developmentally disabled – California agreed. The May Revise proposed by Newsom states the delay of this final increase and thus make essential services less funded to upkeep staff salaries and other resources.

Who Will Be Affected?

Villa Esperanza Services as well as nearly every developmentally disabled services centers in California will face a substantial loss of funds creating challenges to adequately maintain staff as well as difficulties upkeeping essential services. Over 400,000 people with disabilities in California need help, a number that continues to grow. Experts estimate a shortage of 600,000 to 3.2 million direct care workers by 2030. This cut paired with Newsom approving a \$20/hr minimum for fast food workers will make service centers unable to compete with wages.

What Can Be Done?

Ultimately, legislature has until June 15th to negotiate and oppose the proposal and pass a final budget deal. We can advocate against the proposal by: attending local and state-level rallies, contacting local and state legislators and encouraging their support, and sharing the issue on social media and beyond.

Legislature

The May 2024 Villa Advocacy plan will require scheduling meetings with legislators who are still in office – ideally bringing our individuals-served to hear testimonials from them and their families.

Position	Name	End of Term	Re-elected?	How to Contact
Assembly Member	 <p>Chris Holden</p>	December 2, 2024	NO	To schedule a meeting, fill out this form . Otherwise, phone: (626) 351-1917
Senator	 <p>Anthony Portofino</p>	December 2, 2024	NO	For virtual or in-person capital and or district meetings, fill out this meeting request form . Otherwise, phone: (818) 409-0400
Supervisor	 <p>Kathryn Barger</p>	December 2, 2024	YES	(213) 974-5555, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov . The regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are regularly held Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Board's Hearing Room. ALL "How To Participate" information can be found here .

Past History With Developmental Disability Services

- HOLDEN: Publicly states his support for those with developmental disabilities in [his biography](#).
- PORTOFINO: In 2022 Portofino passed [Senate Bill 870](#) which expanded support for young adults with developmental disabilities.
- BARGER: Has vocalized support for those with developmental disabilities. Has supported non-profits like [Tierra del Sol Foundation](#), and [other adaptive care](#) initiatives.

Upcoming Opportunities

Rallies & Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	INFORMATION
May 21, 2024 <i>MEETING</i>	Sacramento, call in link here	State council on developmental disabilities council meeting – public commentary at beginning of meeting. Meeting time from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM
May 31, 2024 <i>RALLY</i>	100 S. Vincent Ave. West Covina, CA. 91790	“Keep the Promise” community rally from 10 AM to 12 PM – in front of Senator Susan Rubio’s office. Calls for all service providers, individuals served, families and community members. Wear blue to show support.

How Villa Could Be More Involved

At the State Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Disability Advisory Committee monthly meetings - Second Wednesday of every month - Link● Association of Regional Center Agencies board meeting on June 21, 2024 - Link● Disability Rights California - Webinars - Link● All Abilities Club of Pasadena monthly program - Link
At the Federal Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services - Link● Administration on Disabilities - Link● US Department of Civil Right - Disability Rights Section - Contact Link● National Council on Disability - Link

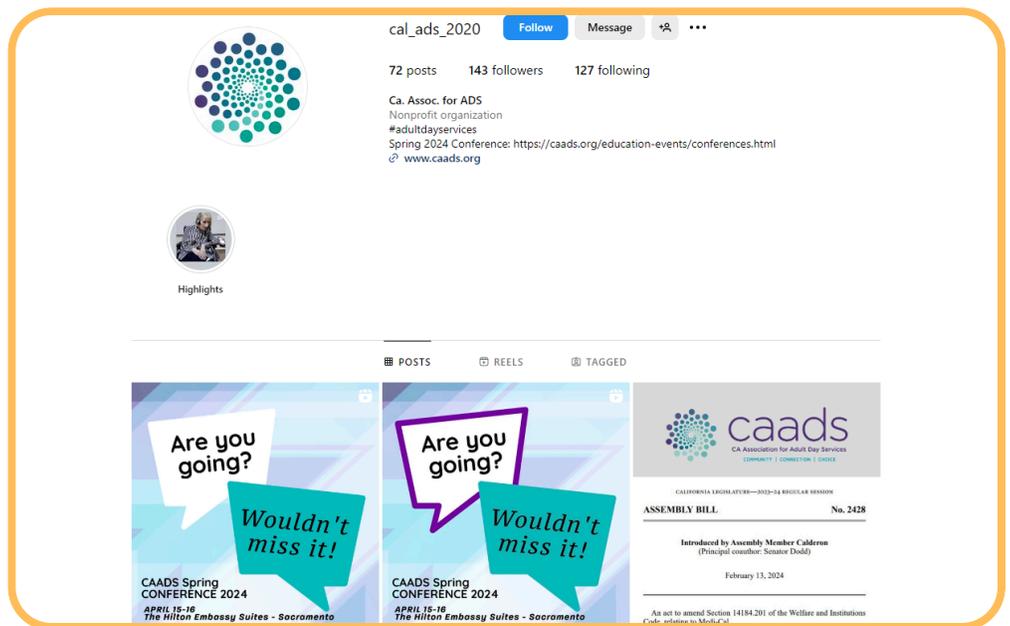
LA-Based Journalism Outreach

Sonja Sharp	Writes narrative stories with a focus on disability in California culture for the LA times. Contact: sonja.sharp@latimes.com
Emily Alpert Reyes	Covers public health for the Los Angeles Times. Contact: emily.alpert@latimes.com
Rebecca Plevin	Reports on equity for the Los Angeles Times. Contact: rebecca.plevin@latimes.com
Julia Wick	Political reporter at the Los Angeles Times. Contact: julia.wick@latimes.com
Rebecca Ellis	Covers Los Angeles County government news for the Los Angeles Times. Contact: rebecca.ellis@latimes.com
Dunia Elvir	KVEA-TV news anchor - biography states she is an “autism advocate”. Contact: Facebook

Social Media Involvement

CAADS

Plan: Follow CAADS on social media, cross-post if they share relevant updates, reach out to receive cross-information about their advocacy efforts.



The Arc of California

Plan: Follow Arc on social media, post similar updates, follow their press releases with relevant info. Continue to follow more non-profits and organizations with similar missions as Villa.



The Future of Villa Advocacy

Contact Type	Proposal
(Email) Advocacy@VillaES.org	Email to be listed on flyers and other advocacy-related materials
(Counsel) Villa Advocacy Counsel	Regularly update counsel with advocacy efforts and encourage involvement - one option, quarterly meetings.
(Update) Villa's Website	Add email and more current advocacy updates to Villa's website

More Ways to Get Involved

1. Email or Tweet your local legislators in one click: [Take Action! Urge Legislators to Reject Delay of \\$1 Billion to Disability Services \(p2a.co\)](#)
2. Identify and contact your district's assemblymember and senator: [Find Address \(ca.gov\)](#)
3. Find West Region elected officials: [Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin Representing the 42nd California Assembly District \(asmcd.org\)](#) and [Senator Henry Stern | Proudly Representing California Senate District 27](#)

Resources

1. [2024-25 May Revision Budget Summary \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. [Press-Release The-Arc-of-California-Responds-to-May-Revise-2024-Budget.pdf \(thearcca.org\)](#)
3. [Proposed budget would deny help to many autistic Californians - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)
4. [‘Breaking a Promise’: California Deficit Could Halt Raises for Disability Workers - California Healthline](#)