



State Budget Update – July 9, 2009  
**Legislature to Reconvene July 14<sup>th</sup> –**  
**Please Call Your Legislator Immediately to Urge**  
**Fair Budget for Human Services**

Dear Aspire Friends and Family,

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois legislature will reconvene. We'd like to urge our supporters to immediately call their State Senators and Representatives with the following message:

- **Urge legislators to let the vetoes of SB 1197 and HB 2145 stand.** Governor Quinn rightly vetoed these bills. The bills unfairly target human services and people with disabilities, while FULLY FUNDING most other areas of the state budget. These bills are unconscionable and inhumane.
- **Pass a sensible and FAIR budget** that does not target people with disabilities and non-profit service providers. Make sure that ALL areas of the State budget share in sacrifices.

Already, because of these bills which unfairly targeted human service needs, Aspire has lost grant funding for several wonderful programs:

- Our **“Taking Time” Respite Program** for families ended on June 30, 2009. Through this program, about 75 parents of children with disabilities received respite services last year.
- Aspire's unique **Kleen Tech Program** will end on July 15, 2009. Through this program, adult participants learned critical job skills, and they have cleaned our facilities with professionalism and courtesy.
- The **Supported Living (SLA) Program** will be reduced on July 31, 2009. Last year we served about 30 adults, and after July this number will be about 15. This program helps adults with disabilities to live independently in the community, with assistance from dedicated case managers.

Aspire is one of many hundreds of non-profit organizations serving persons with developmental disabilities facing the loss of grant funding. For Aspire the grant cuts are about 4% of our total operating income. Many other organizations had cuts that were much higher. There is no good side to this story. Jobs are lost. People are left without service in Illinois. We find it heart-breaking taking calls from family members asking “what are we

supposed to do?" Some of these individuals have been served for many years but will no longer be part of the Aspire family.

Again, we appreciate your efforts to immediately contact your State Senators and Representatives with the following clear message: **protect people with disabilities from budgets which unfairly target human needs!**

To find your state legislator, please visit [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org).

Sincerely,

Jim Kales, President and CEO