



## DESERT HAVEN ENTERPRISES, INC.

P.O. Box 2110  
LANCASTER, CA 93539-2110  
(661) 948-8402  
FAX (661) 948-1080  
WWW.DESERTHAVEN.ORG

### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FUNDING CRISIS TALKING POINTS

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As promised during the Community Meeting held at Desert Haven on September 23, 2015 to discuss the issues surrounding transportation in the Antelope Valley as impacted by the funding crisis, below are the talking points for contacting the Governor and other legislative leaders to express your outrage with the current situation and their failure to act! Ask everyone you know to help by making calls and writing letters!

Please go to our website at [www.deserthaven.org](http://www.deserthaven.org) for additional details and background information on this urgent matter. On the homepage, click on **News** at the top right and then click on **Legislative Alerts**. You will find the information there, along with these talking points and sample letter, which is also copied on the back of this page.

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**FACT:** The system of services and supports for 280,000 of the State of California's most vulnerable, persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is collapsing due to years of inadequate funding and failure of the Governor and the California State Legislature to address the problem!!

- **Reclaiming the Lanterman Act**

-The officials in the State of California – the Governor, Legislative Leaders and the Legislators themselves - Need to Hear Directly From You What Their Failure to Respond to the Funding Crisis Has Done to You or Your Loved One, How You Feel About It, and What You Expect Them to Do to Right this Injustice!!

**Call Governor Jerry Brown today at (916) 445-2841 and tell him!!**

**Call Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins today at (916) 319-2078 and tell her!!!**

**Call Senate President Pro Temp Kevin de León today at (916) 651-4024 and tell him!!!**

- THIS WHEN YOU CALL**
- ➡ You and every elected official within the Legislature of the State of California should be ashamed of yourselves for playing political games with the life and well-being of my loved one and that of 280,000 others around the state!  
My loved one is not a pawn! He or she is a living, breathing, thinking human being, who has hopes and dreams, and they deserve better!
  - ➡ Every elected leader in the State has to take responsibility for this! Not just Democrats! Not just Republicans! Not just the Legislature! Not just the Governor! All of you have to do what it takes to make this important decision for people who are desperately waiting for you to do so.
  - ➡ I am calling on you to get this done **NOW**. Increase rates to service providers and Regional Centers **NOW** – we can't wait any longer!

**Note:** Plus, please share your personal stories with the officials in each office contacted, so they hear how this crisis is now directly impacting you and your loved one, i.e. no transportation to program, etc.

**Follow-up your phone calls with a letter - See sample letter on the back**

**SAY THIS OR SOMETHING LIKE  
THIS WHEN YOU CALL**



**\*\*NOTE\*\* Please write three separate letters, like the sample one below. Address one letter to Governor Brown, one to President Pro Tem De León, and one to Speaker Atkins. Please return your letters to Kathleen Miller at Desert Haven. Assemblyman Tom Lackey will hand deliver them for you to the Governor's Office in Sacramento.**

Date

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Toni Atkins  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Pro Tem Kevin De León  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Please call each of the three legislators listed here and also write one letter to each using the sample below as a guide. Include your personal story and how this funding crisis impacts you!**

Dear Governor Brown,

I strongly urge you to work with Legislative leaders to immediately address the financial crisis that is devastating California's system supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This crisis - due to the lack of adequate funding to service providers and regional centers for most of the last two decades - has only been exacerbated by our failure to address funding in this year's state budget.

The last modest increase of 3% in 2006 was quickly wiped out by more than \$1 billion in cuts brought about by the Great Recession. This extended funding drought has finally led to what should absolutely have been evident all along - major reductions in programs and services for this vulnerable population, which will only grow worse in the very immediate future.

Here in the Antelope Valley, we are seeing the crumbling of service and supports for our loved ones, starting with transportation services, which are crucial within our expansive desert community. Getting reliable and timely transportation to and from appointments and community-based services is just one of many things that has become a system-threatening crisis.

As someone who relies on crucial services facilitated by service providers and regional center, I am pleading with you to not only hear the voices of the tens of thousands of families across California who desperately need a solution, but also to act on behalf of the 280,000 persons with disabilities who are depending on you to uphold the Lanterman Act - California's landmark civil rights law for this population - so that they might enjoy health, safety, and independence just as any other citizen.

We cannot wait another year inasmuch as vital services and supports have already been reduced or have disappeared entirely for many families and individuals.

Please keep the promise of the Lanterman Act and ensure California's most vulnerable residents receive the services and supports they so desperately need.

Sincerely,

*Your Signature Here*

Type or print your name here  
Your street address  
City, State and Zip Code