

**PUBLIC AUTHORITY
REFERRAL REGISTRY**

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747 S. State St.
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Willits Office

221 S. Lenore
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(707) 456-3752
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FAX: (707) 456-3741
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Ft. Bragg Office

825 S. Franklin
Ft. Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 962-1032
FAX: (707) 962-1110
Toll Free: 1-877-327-1677

***IHSS Program Orientations
for Providers***

IHSS Program Orientation is required for all Providers. Please call your local office for an appointment.

Ukiah

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*

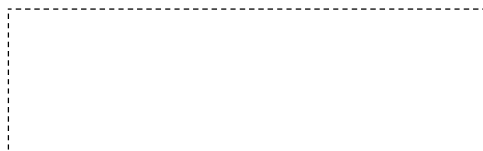
Willits

By appointment

Fort Bragg

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

*Times may be subject to change. Please call to confirm.



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IHSS Public Authority
Mendocino County HHS
P.O. Box 839
Ukiah, CA 95482

IHSS QUARTERLY

Winter 2011



State Budget Changes to IHSS for Fiscal Year 2010-11

by MaryLou Leonard, Deputy Director, Adult & Aging Services

The 2010-2011 Fiscal Year State Budget contains several changes in the IHSS program that may affect you. Though the details for these changes are not certain at the time of publication, you will be notified.

3.6% Reduction of Hours

Effective February 1, 2011, all IHSS hours are scheduled to be cut by 3.6%. For example, an IHSS consumer who is now authorized 100 hours will be reduced to 96.4 hours. It is up to the IHSS consumer to decide how the reduction will be managed within their approved services. A consumer can elect to shave a bit of time off of each authorized task or eliminate one or more tasks completely, depending on their individual needs. By law, the reductions are scheduled to end in June 2012.

Criminal Conviction Expansion

Currently, three criminal convictions preclude someone from being an IHSS caregiver: child abuse [if convicted of Penal Code 273(a)]; elder abuse; and fraud against a federal medical services program.

Effective February 1, 2011, the legislature has added additional criminal offenses that preclude someone from being an IHSS caregiver. These offenses are contained in Penal Code 667.5(c) and 1192.7. Included are offenses that require sex offender registration and felony fraud. (A consumer may choose to waive these additional criminal offenses and hire their requested provider).

The legislature also made a process available for caregivers with criminal convictions to request a waiver from the state if certain standards are met.

Intercounty Background Check Transfer

This will allow background check information completed for an IHSS program in one county to be shared with IHSS in other counties.



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Sarah Solve It!

Remedies for the Concerns of IHSS Care Providers and Consumers

Dear Sarah Solve It:

I am really frustrated! I completed the State requirements to be a provider: I attended the State orientation, turned in all of my paperwork, and was fingerprinted last week. WHY haven't I gotten my time card yet? I turned in my application over 2 weeks ago!! What is the problem???

Yours truly,
Frustrated while waiting for time cards...

Dear Frustrated:

I hear your frustrations. As you stated, you attended the State orientation, turned in all of your paperwork and have been fingerprinted. However, part of being fingerprinted includes the office receiving your background check, or fingerprint results, from the Department of Justice, also known as DOJ. Results from DOJ can take anywhere from 1 week to 6 weeks to receive. Until these are received and your results pass, the process is not complete, and a time card cannot be issued. In addition, once this part of the process is completed, the State payroll system, known as CMIPS, also has to run your Social Security Card verification. This can take up to 10 days. Only when all of these steps have been completed can a time card be issued. Sadly, there isn't a way to hurry this process up.

So, please be patient and know that the staff at Adult and Aging Services is working as quickly as possible to help you in any way possible.

Yours Truly,
Sarah

Free Latex Gloves & Anti-Bacterial Wipes

Available to all IHSS Providers. Just visit your local Adult and Aging Services/Public Authority Office. Gloves are available in small, medium, large, x-large.

Write to Sarah Solve It!

We welcome your questions. Send your letters to:

Sarah Solve It!
IHSS/Public Authority
P.O. 839
Ukiah, CA 95482

Advisory Committee Update

(An open letter sent to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors from the IHSS Advisory Committee)

Governor Brown's proposed 2011-2012 Budget includes significant new cuts to the In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS). The IHSS Advisory Committee believes that the proposed cuts will jeopardize the ability of many local seniors and persons with disabilities to safely remain in their own homes. In addition, home care providers will lose income and health care benefits, forcing many to turn to public assistance. Our local economy will take a multi-million dollar hit in provider wages. We urge you to strongly oppose the proposed IHSS cuts and encourage the governor and legislature to find ways to preserve this vital program.

The proposed budget will have the following impacts:

- In addition to the 3.6% reduction in services from last year's budget, there will be an additional 8.4% across-the-board cut in hours.
- Recipients who live with anyone (whether the housemate is their provider or not) will lose their domestic and related services.
- Recipients under 18 years of age who live with a parent who is able and available will lose their domestic and related services.
- The IHSS cuts will hit many of the same people who are slated to receive further cuts in SSI from \$845 to \$830 per month and new co-pay requirements for Medi-Cal services.

Governor Jerry Brown

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Assembly Member Wes Chesbro

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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/contact.htm>

- IHSS Advisory Committees will lose all state funding thus diminishing the voice of consumers, providers and other stakeholders in the way IHSS operates.

- The average recipient will lose about 26% of needed services (from 2010 levels) - the equivalent of eliminating 23 hours of care per month.

IHSS is a budget solution, not a budget problem. The proposed cuts will shift costs to much more expensive institutional care and cause expensive and unnecessary hospitalizations. The cuts will also deprive California of significant federal matching dollars and add to the current unemployment problem. The proposed cuts will reduce the quality of the lives of the people who depend on IHSS and the quality of our community.

On behalf of the IHSS Advisory Committee,

Andrew M. Rossoff, Chair

IHSS Advisory Committee

The IHSS Advisory Committee provides ongoing advice and recommendations regarding in-home supportive services to the County Board of Supervisors.

Are you interested in being a member? Meetings are held in Ukiah at the HHSA Big Sur Conference Room, 747 S. State Street from 1:00—3:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (except January and July). Upcoming 2011 meeting dates are March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1.

Meetings are public - come check it out.

IHSS Quarterly provided courtesy of the IHSS Advisory Committee:

Maria Brook
Eric George
Sheila Gray
Norman Hallam
Jane Kardas
Roberta King
Sharon Knivila
Louise Osejo
Andrew Rossoff