



RESTORE INDEPENDENT LIVING

In the aggregate, FY20 was another year of continued services while dealing with a public health crisis and civil unrest, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and transitioned individuals into the community. In fact, the Network helped transition 216 people through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. That number was a 142% of the original goal. Nursing Home Transition (NHT)-state funds 191 persons at 111% of the goal. It is also gratifying to know the Network served over 2400 individuals, developed a 3-year IL state plan and facilitated numerous presentations.

The reduced funding to the Independent Living Network is shocking. Our CIL Networks are facing devastating cuts because the line items they advocated and were awarded through legislation budget approval some years ago are part of these cuts.

| Independent Living Organization | FY20 State Funding | FY20-21 State Funding |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
|  | \$73,857 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$174,865 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$200,000 | ↓ \$164,000 *expansion |
|  | \$24,543 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | | |
|  | \$106,342 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$59,130 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$24,229 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$149,733 | ↓ \$122,781 *expansion |
|  | \$84,212 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | | |
|  | \$61,822 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | \$27,302 | ↓ (\$0) |
|  | | |
|  | \$267,000 | ↓ \$200,250 |

These significant cuts will potentially eliminate jobs and limit our ability to fulfil the increased requests for services to the disability community that have become more isolated from wanted and needed services and resources during these unprecedented times. What is truly needed is not only full restoration of reduced funds, but an increase in state funds. The increase will help strengthen the existing Network and help assist in reaching the disability community in underserved counties.

At the grassroots level, we have always been better-equipped to champion and support individuals with disabilities. Restoring the cuts will help us keep our heads above water, help us to provide necessary supports statewide. Please consider what is at stake in a population that is already compromised and marginalized. The ramifications that will be realized from these budget cuts will affect Georgians with disabilities for years to come.

Immediate and full restoration of this reduced funding is the best long term solution for all involved. The Network will be responsible for reassigning the funds in accordance to the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

State funds does not include required state match to federal funds