



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
PO Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310

June 23, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

As you have no doubt heard, Washington State lawmakers have not yet approved a budget for the two-year period that begins on July 1, 2015. State agencies are now gearing up for the possibility of a partial state government shutdown beginning July 1.

Many Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) staff will receive layoff notices today indicating that in the absence of a budget, staff will not report to work beginning July 1. Certain staff will remain to maintain essential services and functions, which are operations that must continue because they are mandated by our state Constitution or are required by federal law. Our residential habilitation centers and State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) homes will continue to operate in all essential respects. For a list of services and status as of July 1, 2015, see:

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/contingency/plans/2015/DSHS.pdf>.

If you do receive a layoff notice, it does not mean that your work is less important than those who do not receive a notice. All DDA staff exemplify our mission and values through the work that they do, and I am sincerely saddened by the impact this has on you and your families, our clients, and our providers.

In the event that we do not have a budget in effect by July 1, I will not know how long this partial shutdown will continue. Within your notices you will find a phone number to call to check to see if the layoff period is over and you can return to work. Until that time, staff are not permitted to return to their offices or check work email or voicemail. A management bulletin will also be coming out shortly that provides additional information.

Please see the following video Secretary Quigley has prepared that gives some additional information on the budget situation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFCW0_xnrKc&feature=youtu.be.

I truly appreciate all of the work you do and I will keep you informed prior to July 1 if we receive any new information on the status of the budget.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Perez, Assistant Secretary