

Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (DeARF) Summary of FY2008 Budget Recommendations--Revised

Table 1: DeARF's Top Priorities

Issue/Request	Rationale/ Discussion	Department/ Division	Budget Unit	Amount Requested
#1 Priority Add to Governor's Budget 3.3% increase for contractual service providers (based on standard economic indicators).	Providers are subject to the same cost pressures as state agencies in the areas of insurance, energy, building maintenance, and salary costs. The Community Based Service System must be maintained with adequate funding annually.	DHSS/DDDS	35-11-30	1.1 million
		DHSS/DSAMH	35-06-20	1.1 million
		DHSS/DSAAPD	35-14-01	.6 million
**Add to Governor's Budget funds for the implementation of the Plan to End Homelessness	Housing in Delaware is not affordable for people with incomes below \$20,000 per year. There are more than 1,800 homeless people in Delaware on any given night and more than 6,700 over the course of a year. Many of them are people with mental health and substance use conditions. If funded, this initiative would add as many as 120 new units of affordable housing for this population in FY 2008.	DSHA	10-08-01	3.0 million
**Add to Governor's Budget funds to implement the Family Support Waiver (FSW)	FSW supports families with service choices and enables individuals to live as independently as possible in the community.	DHSS/DDDS	35-11-30	1.1 million

**Equal/Balanced Priorities

Total \$6.96 million

Table 2: In-the-Budget Priorities DeARF Members Strongly Support

Issue/Request	Rationale/ Discussion	Department/ Division	Budget Unit	Amount Requested
#Support Governor's Budget request to implement Medicaid Buy-In – it removes a barrier to employment.	People with disabilities in Delaware will be able to work and maintain the Medicaid benefits that are crucial for their health, well-being, and optimum functioning in the community.	DHSS/DMMA	35-02-01	.224 million
#Support Governor's Budget request for new Supervised Apartments	Affordable housing with support services is a critical component to developing alternatives to institutionalization for people with disabilities. This initiative will also reduce and prevent homelessness among people with serious mental health conditions.	DHSS/DSAMH	35-06-20	.225 million

Equal/Balanced Priorities

Please note: DeARF also supports initiatives that help rebalance resources between State institutions and community services and choices, such as “Money Follows the Person” and “Direct Support Professional Wage Increases” as important new policy concepts. However, specific dollar amounts for these initiatives for FY08 have not been determined. We also know that the impact of Federal Cuts on DHSS Programs is significant and that most of the cuts must be funded by the State or State would be obligated to cut programs. In the context of our priorities and concerns we specifically support the Governor's proposed cigarette tax increase and an increase in other revenue streams.

(Revised 3/26/07)