

NCARF

Legislative Talking Points 12-2010

- 1) Community Rehabilitation Programs provide a broad array of vocational training, job placement / supported employment, and residential services to thousands of people with disabilities across the state of North Carolina. Primarily funded through the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse, as well as the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, we serve North Carolina's most severely disabled and vulnerable citizens. Across the state, CRP's provide daily services to over 8,500 individuals (some on a 24-hour basis), employ over 9,000 individuals, and have a total statewide economic impact of over \$175 million annually.
- 2) Our services are provided in local communities across the state, which enables people with disabilities to live and work near their families, instead of having to be hospitalized in a far more expensive regional state-run institution. Because our consumers receive daily services, which are supported by efficient group rates (see #3), their parents are able to maintain regular employment and thus contribute to the local economy through their own payroll and property taxes, as well as in retail sales small and large. Without the services we provide, one of these parents would otherwise need to remain at home to care for their disabled son or daughter.
- 3) The highest volume of service we provide is through the 'Adult Developmental Vocation Program', which offers the consumer a blend of educational, developmental, and vocational training opportunities. The established state group rate for these services does not fully reimburse the provider agency for the costs associated with the provision of the service. Rather, it represents an approximate 60% subsidy of the actual costs. For this reason, CRPs very often operate a production component, and partner with local business and industry for the manufacture and/or packaging of goods and/or services. These production operations provide the CRP with the additional revenue needed to operate, and provide our consumers with meaningful wages. CRPs are paying their own way!
- 4) The primary responsibility of elected officials is to build, maintain, and improve the public service infrastructure. This includes the human services CRPs provide to a severely disabled and often invisible population. The families of these individuals are very dependent on the services we provide as well (as noted in item #2). The reduction or elimination of these desperately needed services will reduce many families to the poverty level, and their financial contributions will be lost to both local and state government.
- 5) The people voted for better and more efficiently run government---not smaller government. They voted for problem solving, not rhetoric and ideology. It is time to solve this state's biggest problems, and meet those challenges through creativity and collaboration. We must continue to support the public infrastructures that have formed the opportunity for people with disabilities to lead a high quality of life.