

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: “Modification to the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities”

REFERENCE: Draft Legislation – Bill Number Not Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2003 operating budget and in the FY 2004 – FY 2007 budget and financial plan because the proposed legislation does not include new or revised expenditures.

Background

The proposed legislation would modify the District’s 1915(c) Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (Waiver) by limiting its services to persons with mental retardation. The Waiver has received federal approval for the five-year period beginning June 1, 2002 and is currently operational.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration (MRDDA) is responsible for administration of the Waiver under the supervision of the Department of Health, Medical Assistance Administration. Persons currently eligible to receive services under the Waiver include persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The proposed legislation would remove persons with developmental disabilities from the Waiver.

DHS currently provides services only to persons with mental retardation who meet eligibility criteria established by the MRDDA. This is in large part because the statutory framework and the *Joy Evans* Exit Plan governing the MRDDA's activities focus almost exclusively on supports and services for persons with mental retardation. Moreover, DHS does not have the program or clinical capacity to provide services to developmentally disabled persons other than individuals with mental retardation. No developmentally disabled persons are currently receiving services under the existing Waiver.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2003 operating budget and in the FY 2004 – FY 2007 proposed budget and financial plan because the proposed legislation does not include new or revised expenditures.¹

¹ The fiscal impact of the Waiver beginning June 1, 2002 was addressed in the April 30, 2002 fiscal impact statement on the "Emergency Renewal of the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities."