



## Services for Oregon's Most Vulnerable Citizens are in Crisis!

Turnover of direct care workers exceeds 65% costing at least \$12 million annually in replacement costs.

### Other Critical Issues

- ✓ No increases in 5 years.
- ✓ Savings exhausted, some organizations face bankruptcy.

### Compare!

The state is responsible for assuring the health, safety and rights of people needing Comprehensive Services. Non-profits now provide this service in communities throughout Oregon. It would cost the State over \$200,000,000 in direct labor costs alone to provide the same supports.

**Nearly 3,000 people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) living in Oregon communities must have twenty-four hour support.**

**This is David.** David has some relationships that are very important to him. Over the years, many people with whom David has had meaningful relationships have had to move on and out of David's life because they cannot meet their basic needs. Every time David loses a care provider, it impacts his quality of life. Like all of us, he benefits from close relationships where people know understand how he thinks, anticipate his needs, and provide safety and comfort. Each time a care provider leaves David's home for a different job, it means that David's happiness and security is impacted negatively. It also means that there may come a time that David stops trusting people and is unwilling to engage in relationships that each of us need to maintain our physical and mental health.

Recently, David lost a trusted care provider that had worked with him for several years. The benefits he received were inadequate to meet his needs, and he found himself in a situation where he could no longer sacrifice his own needs, even though it meant sacrificing time he spent with David in his home nurturing a relationship and securing David's happiness.

This story is not unique. In fact, it happens quite often, as turnover is near 100%. Without greater support, this trend will continue, and more and more relationships, like some of David's, will be lost forever.



**Recommendation:** *An increase of approximately \$60 million in State General Funds to increase rates for current DD Comprehensive Services is needed for the 2007-09 biennium.*

*Further, cost of living increases must be included in every biennial budget. Without such adjustments, community nonprofits will continue to be in crisis.*