



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

CCLN FIXES THE RATE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

May 2023

CCLN sounds the alarm in 2019!

Upon release of the Burns and Associated Rate Study in 2019, CCLN immediately recognized that there was a flaw in the rate model calculations for Independent Living Services (ILS). CCLN began our advocacy work to fight to adjust Independent Living Services rate assumptions to align the types of services provided with more equivalent occupations, such as teachers, social and human service assistants, and rehabilitation counselors.

CCLN comes knocking on doors...

The CCLN Governmental Affairs team began urgently knocking on doors to alert elected officials, the administration and government entities of the ILS rate issue. On May 1, 2019, in their [response](#) to the rate study to the Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1 on Health and Human Services, the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) describes ILS as “a particularly important service as more consumers hope to live on their own and the state must come into compliance with HCBS rules. If a rate decrease has the effect of reducing access to, or the quality of, ILS services, this could work against the state’s ultimate goals.” As noted in the LAO [handout](#) to the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services on May 9, 2019 the LAO noted that “This [ILS] will be an important service as the system becomes more “person-centered,” yet the rate model proposes an aggregate rate *decrease*” and “the wage assumption for independent living services [are] (potentially too low).”

In 2019 who ever thought the rate study was going to go anywhere?

While CCLN was successful in messaging the issue to the right people, we moved onto advocating for other critical issues impacting our members at the time. The States own rate study demonstrated that the system for Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was underfunded by \$1.8 Billion. We never expected to see that level of investment in our system.

Fast forward to 2021

In 2021 the legislature included fully finding the rate study in the state budget. CCLN blew the dust off the documentation, financial models, and analysis of the ILS rate mistake that we had worked so hard on in 2019 and once again began knocking on doors to advocate for a fix. We had the ILS Rate issue on every one of our quarterly meetings with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). We scheduled meetings with our legislative contacts. We knew the ILS rate had to be fixed in the implementation of the rate study.

CCLN's 2023 multipronged approach

In 2023 CCLN was successful in sponsoring a bill authored by Assemblymember Wood AB 1568 to correct the mistake in the ILS rate model. Our rally cry began with "FIX THE RATE WITH AB 1568!" In addition to running a bill, CCLN also submitted "Community Stakeholder Budget requests" to both the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget Committee to fund the ILS rate fix.



CCLN testifies at the Senate Budget Committee Hearing and the Assembly Human Services Committee Hearing

CCLN invites decision makers to tour ILS arrangements

Tremendous efforts were made to educate our Californian leaders on what Independent Living Services are. Our CCLN Board President Jacquie Foss from Strategies To Empower People offered tours of ILS arrangements at every meeting we had on the ILS rate issue. All of them took her up on the offer! Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst's Office, President pro tempore of the California State Senate staff, Assembly & Senate Budget Staff and Little Hoover Commission all visited people receiving ILS in their homes to see first-hand what ILS does. They were truly impacted by what they saw. The incredible Direct Support Professionals and individuals receiving services were eager to tell their stories of living independently. Many who attended the tours indicated that they were forever changed by the experience.

CCLN receives broad community support!

CCLN worked tirelessly to successfully gather support from our community. Our CCLN members and community partners responded to our CCLN Action Alerts and submitted letters of support at each stage in the process. Many rallied with us at the capitol, wrote letters of support, attended the hearings and provided public comments in support of CCLN's ILS Rate fix initiative.



STEP funded buttons to wear at the capitol

May 10, 2023: The Governor releases the May Revised Budget

WE DID IT!

On Friday, May 10 the Governor released the May revised budget. In the budget it included the funding to fix the ILS Rate! We could not have done it without the support of our CCLN membership. Your continued support enables us to fight to achieve CCLN's Mission.

Our mission is to advocate for the systemic development of quality community living services for Californians with developmental disabilities.

Here is the link to the budget and the language that fixes the ILS rate model.

<https://ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf> (Page 60 of the PDF)

Service Provider Rate Reform: Independent Living Services—The May Revision includes \$15 million (\$8.5 million General Fund) beginning January 2024 to adjust Independent Living Services rate assumptions to align the types of services provided with more equivalent occupations, such as teachers, social and human service assistants, and rehabilitation counselors. Resources increase to an estimated ongoing \$60 million (\$34 million General Fund) beginning in 2024-25.

We are so grateful for our partnership with DDS and all their work with us on this issue!

Thank you all for ensuring ILS services will continue for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

