

## Sample letter

January, 2011

Dear: State Assembly Member, State Senator. (See list provided.)

I/ We had written you last year of our serious concerns regarding the state budget crisis. This year we are even more alarmed at the continuing crisis and the immediate threat to the viability of nonprofits serving the most disabled populations with the state running out of money in February!

You may well know that Villa Esperanza Services serves the most vulnerable children, adults and seniors who are the most dependent upon Regional Center funding – those with moderate to severe autism without the ability to speak for themselves, others with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as the frail and disabled elderly.

Villa has been a good partner for many years engaging in many fundraising events to supplement 20 years of insufficient government funding. The continuing cuts and a bad economy leave poor choices for continuing viability. There is widespread fear that many agencies may be forced to close and even discussions of possible mergers may take longer and cost too much to be a realistic, short-term option.

As decisions are finally made with declining state revenues, please have the Department of Developmental Services and other state departments be thoughtful in where to make the cuts. At Villa, we are most vulnerable in the 7 small group, adult residential homes funded through regional centers. Reduced revenues over time or a complete loss of funding for even a short period would leave Villa's 54 developmentally disabled adults without homes.

Thank you for your immediate consideration in this critically important situation.

Sincerely,