

➤ *Dayton Modifies Petition; Includes Provider Payments as “Essential”*

Late Monday, June 20th, Governor Mark Dayton said he would revise his recommended list of services that should be considered essential if a government shutdown occurs on July 1st. Added to his list of essential services are payments to providers of health and economic assistance services. This would include payments to disability service providers under Medical Assistance.



The Arc Minnesota and other disability groups had been pressing Gov. Dayton to include provider payments in his list. Our understanding is that his revised list includes all Medical Assistance (MA) services for people with disabilities, whether waived services, day training and habilitation, residential services, personal care attendant services, etc. Previously, the Governor had recommended that *access* to MA services be considered essential, but didn't include *payments* to MA service providers as essential. A number of providers and individuals since then stated that without payments for services, they could not afford to provide them, and people with disabilities would be harmed.

Thank you to all of you who contacted Gov. Dayton on this crucial issue. This is a positive development, but it is not the final word. The Governor's list of recommended services is only one proposal being submitted to the Ramsey County Court, which will issue a ruling on which services will be considered essential in the event of a government shutdown. Disability organizations and other interested parties are submitting their own petitions for the court to consider when it takes up this issue on Thursday, June 23, 2011. It is unclear how soon the court will issue its decision on which (if any) services will be deemed “essential” in the event of a shutdown.

There is also a petition by several Minnesota state senators to the Minnesota Supreme Court. This petition asks that the Supreme Court not allow the Ramsey County Court to issue any ruling that would declare state services essential or non-essential. The state senators are arguing that the Legislature and the Governor are the only bodies that can authorize state spending, not a county court.

While the courts consider these petitions, there are actions you can take.

1) Continue to contact your legislators and the Governor, urging them to protect disability services that help people with disabilities live in the community and to support a balanced approach to the state budget that includes additional revenues. See our [current action alert](#) on our website.

2) Share with us your story on how you would be impacted by a government shutdown. Go to our website for [tips on how to create your story](#). Send your story to our Civic Engagement Coordinator, Jean Bender, at jeanb@arcmn.org