



Independence Now
Action Alert
FY12 County Budgets

It's time for Daffodils and FY12 County Budget Hearings! Independence Now has two concerning issues this year, one in each County. Please read the following information and take action!

Prince George's County

In Prince George's County, Independence Now is not included in the Prince George's Department of Housing and Community Development as part of the Community Development Block Grant funding. In years past, we have received funds under Mod Squad and Access Housing to complete environmental assessments and home modifications for individuals with disabilities in Prince George's County. For FY12 Independence Now is not named to be funded to once again do this work. On any given year we complete home modifications or fund Assistive Technology for 40 people in Prince George's County.

Tell Council Members: we need these funds to support the state funding match requirement and help those dollars stretch to fund the staff position to manage this work. Our work allows people with disabilities to gain or maintain independence in the community.

TAKE ACTION

1. You can go to the following link and email comments on the budget
http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/LegislativeBranch/budget_fy2012.asp?printy=yes

2. You can attend budget hearings and give verbal or written testimony:
The budget hearings are held in the County Administration Building Council Hearing Room on the 1st floor in Upper Marlboro, MD. Those wishing to testify at the budget hearings should call 301-952-3600, TDD-(301) 925-5167. Free parking and shuttle bus service is available at the Prince George's Equestrian Center parking lots.

April 26, 2011 at 7:30 PM for Community Development Block Grant

3. You can write or call the members of the Housing, Transportation and the Environment Committee:

Eric C. Olson, Chair, 301-952-3060, EOlson@co.pg.md.us, District 3

Karen R. Toles, Vice-Chair, 301-952-3690, KRToles@co.pg.md.us, District 7

Mary Lehman, 301-952-3887, MALehman@co.pg.md.us, District 1

Obie Patterson, 301-952-3860, Councildistrict8@co.pg.md.us, District 8

Ingrid Turner, 301-952-3094, IMTurner@co.pg.md.us, District 4

Montgomery County

In Montgomery County, Independence Now is losing a grant of \$50,007 that for many years has supported Independent Living Services for the residents of Montgomery County. These funds help to add a half time staff position to the Montgomery County side of the Independent Living Services Department. This grant, under the Department of Health and Human Services has been cut entirely from the FY12 Montgomery County Budget. Each year we serve 159 consumers in Montgomery County, reach out to residents of county nursing facilities, manage group peer meetings each month, advocate on community-wide issues and answer nearly 1000 information and referral phone calls. Without these funds this level of work will not be maintained. **Tell Council Members:** These funds are needed to continue the level of service currently provided to the residents of Montgomery County.

TAKE ACTION

1. You can go to the following link and email comments on the budget:
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/mcginfo/budgetcomments.asp>

2. You can attend budget hearings and give verbal or written testimony:
The budget hearings for Montgomery County will be held in the Council Hearing Room, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, at the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 6, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Thursday, April 7, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

To testify call 240-777-7803.

3. You can write or call the members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

George Leventhal, Member At-Large, Chair, 240-777-7811

councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov

Nancy Navarro, District 4, 240-777-7968

councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov

Craig Rice, District 2, 240-777-7955

councilmember.rice@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Need help with your action? Call Sarah Sorensen 301-277-2839 or ssorensen@innnow.org