

For Immediate Release:

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Charlie Crist,
Governor

**Governor's Budget Proposal
Supports People with Disabilities**

Jim DeBeaugrine,
Director

TALLAHASSEE — Jim DeBeaugrine, Director for the Agency for Persons

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with Disabilities (APD), today announced some highlights included in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget recommended by Florida Governor Charlie Crist. This proposed budget will allow Florida's most vulnerable citizens to continue to receive services in their community. APD serves about 35,000 people with developmental disabilities each year helping them to participate in activities like going to work or learning life skills.

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Governor Crist is proposing \$1.16 for APD's budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11. The agency's budget was \$1.08 billion in Fiscal Year 2009-10 and \$1.06 billion in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

(866) APD-CARES
(866-273-2273)

Some of the main APD budget recommendations are:

- \$3 million to add dental services to Tier 4. Currently customers on Tier 4 cannot receive dental services through the waiver.
- \$12.7 million to serve people on the waiver waiting list.
- An additional \$100 million for the Medicaid waiver to eliminate the projected deficit over the current and upcoming fiscal years due to delays in fully implementing the tier waiver system.

Governor Charlie Crist said, "The state of Florida has a duty to help its most vulnerable citizens in anyway it can. These budget recommendations will assist the Agency for Persons with Disabilities with continuing its good work on behalf of Floridians with disabilities by expanding critically needed dental services. Additionally, by eliminating the APD deficit that keeps rolling forward each year, it will help ensure the agency will be able to serve individuals in the future."

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Director DeBeaugrine said, "We appreciate the governor's support of APD and the people we serve. These budget recommendations will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people with developmental disabilities in our state. I look forward to working with Governor Crist and legislators to move these new recommendations into action."

APD annually serves about 35,000 Floridians with the developmental disabilities of mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and Prader-Willi syndrome. For more information on the agency, call **1-866-APD-CARES** or visit www.apdcares.org.

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REMINDER FOR MEDIA---When reporting on stories about people with disabilities, remember to use language that puts the person first, rather than the disability. For example, use phrases such as "persons with disabilities" (instead of "the disabled") and "person who uses a wheelchair" (rather than "wheelchair bound").

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