



# THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

## Proposed Plan to Restore and Sustain the I/DD Service System

**FY 2019-2020**

**First Half  
issue  
Jul – Dec**

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### THE LANTERMAN COALITION

A coalition of statewide associations and organizations representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



It is no secret that the system of services and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities is crumbling beneath the weight of ongoing rate cuts and rate freezes and the State of California's continuing failure to implement swift and sweeping rate reform that would buoy and sustain the system. In fact, California recently completed a multi-year rate study that has confirmed the aforementioned and concluded the system is currently underfunded by some \$1.8 billion, the result of more than 20 years of insufficient rates, rate cuts, and a lack of investment in the system...all while California is enjoying record revenues and a surplus of \$30 billion!!!

For years, the I/DD community has urgently stressed the need for emergency funding as a stop gap measure until a plan for reform could be developed. This year, thanks to the

diligence of supporters in the state legislature and others, the Budget included an increase of \$124.5 million General Fund in FY 2019-20 and \$249 million General Fund in FY 2020-21. Obviously, while appreciated, these increases do not even begin to scratch the surface of the nearly \$2 billion deficit within the system; nor do they provide an increase to all services, inasmuch as several critical services were omitted; and they have a sunset date attached to them of January 1, 2022. As a result, hundreds more programs are teetering on the edge of collapse, direct support staff turnover has skyrocketed due to low wages, and some 350,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face inadequate supports, or no supports at all.

"Now, the appropriate and required course of action is to implement a multi-year strategic investment plan that ensures that the I/DD community and the promise of the Lanterman Act move from a time of crisis and into a time of opportunity and innovation," according to the Lanterman Coalition, an advocacy conglomerate comprised of 23 statewide and regional groups advocating for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To that end, the coalition is advocating for continued investment into the system that would not only revive and buoy the system from further erosion, but sustain it into the foreseeable future. This multi-year strategic plan would do the following:

### DRAFT - Multi-Year Strategic Plan to Restore Health, Safety, and Opportunity for Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8% across-the-board rate increase for emergency funding and triage.</li> <li>Fix the minimum wage quirk.</li> <li>Restore recession era cuts.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/3 of rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level.</li> <li>3.3% rate increase to adjust for the \$1 increase to minimum wage starting January 1, 2021.</li> <li>Rate augmentation of \$100 per month for service staff fluent in non-English languages.</li> <li>Corrective action of emergency 8.2% rate increases for early intervention and independent living services.</li> <li>Regional center operations funding for caseload ratio compliance</li> <li>Remove sunset date.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/3 rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level.</li> <li>3.3% rate increase to adjust for the \$1 increase to minimum wage starting January 1, 2022.</li> <li>Reclassification of service codes to align with rate models.</li> <li>Implementation of rate adjustments based on regional cost differences, to align with rate models.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/3 rate increases proposed in finalized rate models*, holding harmless any current rates above that level.</li> <li>Proportional rate increase to adjust for a CPI-related increase to minimum wage starting January 1, 2023.</li> <li>Implementation of tiered rate augmentations for DS I, II, and III status, along with training requirements, as outlined in the rate models.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TOTAL Proposed = \$359M General Fund</b></p> <p><b>TOTAL Enacted = \$154.5M GF in FY 19-20, \$279M GF in FY 20-21, Sunset date of Jan 1, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>TOTAL Proposed = \$440M General Fund</b></p>	<p><b>TOTAL Proposed = \$410M General Fund</b></p>	<p><b>TOTAL Proposed = \$345M General Fund</b></p>

## How are we doing?...Keeping a finger on the pulse of our consumers

Following is a summary of performance in DHE's key program areas, based upon a review of data for the first half of the 2019-20 fiscal year:

### **Employment Skills Training Services: Work Readiness - Off-Site Hab Crews**

- ✓ Sixty-three percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ Participants in the Work Readiness Program spent an average of 68% of each program day engaged in paid work.
- ✓ A total of forty-one off-site hab crew contracts were developed or expanded in the first half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ Five consumers obtained individual, community-based employment from the Work Readiness Program during this review period.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of the customers utilizing the off-site hab crew service.

### **Community Employment Services: Supported Employment - Individual Placement**

- ✓ A total of 5.2 individual placements were achieved for the first half of the year for consumers seeking community employment.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$13.13 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ One consumer working within the community transitioned into competitive employment status this review period.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 11.9 months of job seeking prior to placement.
- ✓ One hundred percent of responding consumers placed in the SE program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of employers responding to the survey.

### **Day Training Activity Services: Project Independence**

- ✓ Forty-three percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ No consumers graduated from the DTAC program into the Work Readiness Program for vocational training.
- ✓ Consumers had opportunity to participate in a total of 81 meaningful and diversified community outings.
- ✓ Thirty-seven percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated skill acquisition and retention in a key area.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with the services offered.

## DESERT HAVEN OPENS PROGRAM IN SANTA CLARITA VALLEY



After some 65 years of providing service to the I/DD community within the Antelope Valley, Desert Haven Enterprises has spread its proverbial wings, opening its first ever program in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Effective September 1, 2019, NLACRC vended Desert Haven to provide employment skills training services

through its Work Readiness Program within and throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. The purpose of the Work Readiness Program is to provide opportunities for real work experiences in an actual work environment; to help participants learn about different types of jobs that may be of interest to them; to gain marketable job skills, to develop a resume for future employment; and to earn a paycheck while they train. Desert Haven provides both paid work and volunteer opportunities by contracting with local business and industry for a variety of services that are performed by those enrolled in the program. To date, Desert Haven has partnered with the City of Santa Clarita (Metrolink Stations and Bus Transfer Station), Ironwood Properties (Wyandotte Apts, Hazeltine Apts, Serrano Apts, Stevenson Apts), Crissair, Blue Star Ranch, Swan Center Outreach, and Hope of the Valley Thrift Store.

Desert Haven plans to bring additional programs to the Santa Clarita Valley, including its Job Placement/Supported Employment Program.

DHE - Santa Clarita Valley is located adjacent to the Santa Clarita Valley Branch of North Los Angeles County Regional Center, at 25350 Magic Mountain Parkway, Suite 359, Valencia, CA 91355. Persons interested in learning more about Desert Haven's Santa Clarita-based program, should contact their Regional Center Counselor or DHE's Director of Program Services Kathleen Miller at (661) 948-8402.

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**Special Thanks:** Outlaw Chefs and Hit Machine

**Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!!**

# EIGHTH ANNUAL BAJA BASH: SETS A NEW ALL-TIME RECORD

Year in and year out the "Viva La Fiesta" Baja Bash does not disappoint. Certainly, this year was no exception, with the event, in its eighth year, raising in excess of \$127,000 for the organization. On an absolutely spectacular night in September, some 250 Desert Haven supporters came together at Hacienda Reyes, overlooking the Antelope Valley, for an exciting evening of dancing, bidding, and partying under a beautiful desert sky. Excited guests enjoyed the musical stylings of the Hit Machine; dined on delicious Puerto Nuevo-style tri-tip barbecue, perfectly prepared by the renowned Outlaw Chefs and served by our very own DHE consumers; and bid feverishly on an incredible lineup of outstanding auction items.

The top-selling item for the evening, purchased by an anonymous guest at \$5,000, was a Fund-a-Need donation to Desert Haven, followed closely by a getaway to the Big Island of Hawaii, which was sold twice at a price tag of \$4,000 to lucky bidders Doug Tracy/CIS Services and Diane Link together with Vincent and Brittany Oddo. This year, there were a multitude of very exciting trips, including 7-days on the island of Roatan in the Caribbean, as well as trips to Kehei Maui, Lake Tahoe, Durango, Carlsbad, and the ONX Estate Vineyard in Paso Robles, to name a few. The silent auction was even bigger and better than last year, as was the wine tasting from some phenomenal vineyards. Needless to say, it was an extraordinary night, thanks to the Herculean efforts of Leslie and Tom Fuller and the members of the hardworking Baja Bash Committee. We cannot wait until next year!!!! Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## 2019 BAJA BASH COMMITTEE

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Linda Ascencio   | Bridget Howitt   |
| Tina Autry       | Larry Jones      |
| Margo Curtin     | Trish Jones      |
| Richard Curtin   | Lindsay Kristel  |
| Cyndee Davenport | Sharon Lindquist |
| Dennis Davenport | Nancy Masters    |
| Cheryl Fletcher  | Joe Mayol        |
| Jim Fourn        | Lena Mayol       |
| Leslie Fuller    | RaNae Seaton     |
| Tom Fuller       | Melissa Sullivan |
| Naomi Guzman     | Laurie Woolery   |
| Valerie Hoffman  |                  |

## WAY TO SET A NEW ALL-TIME RECORD!



## NLACRC BREAKS GROUND ON NEW AV OFFICE

As the numbers of persons within the I/DD community have grown exponentially here in the Antelope Valley, North Los Angeles County Regional Center has long since outgrown its existing 20,000 sq. foot facility in the Lancaster Business Park. Thanks to Frank Visco, Principal of Fraber Properties and one-time Regional Center Board Trustee, NLACRC's new 40,000 sq. foot office space, located at 43860 N. 10th Street West in Lancaster, will bring much needed relief to the Regional Center and to those accessing its services here in the AV.

The new site, currently under construction, is an infill development to help eliminate blight within the City of Lancaster. Fraber Properties is working diligently to revitalize the property, which is slated for occupancy by October 2020, and to specifically meet the needs of Region-



**Desert Haven Enterprises**  
**43437 Copeland Circle**  
**Lancaster, CA 93535**

**OUR MISSION**

Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to developing, enhancing, and promoting the capabilities of persons with developmental disabilities.

The primary objective of the agency is to enable persons served to maximize their potential to become independent, self-sufficient, and participating members of their community through pre-vocational and vocational training, independent living and community skills training, job placement, community-based employment, and supportive services.

**CARF ACCREDITATION**

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in April 2018, receiving a three-year accreditation. Interested persons may review by going to [www.deserthaven.org](http://www.deserthaven.org) and clicking on "Accreditations" under the "About" section.

**DHE HISTORY**

DHE was begun in 1954 when parents Jack and Luella Henstra placed an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking a playmate for their son who had mental retardation as a result of meningitis. A small group of parents, led by the Henstra's, established the Desert Haven Preschool and the rest, as they say, is history.

**NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

The following employers have recently hired consumers into regular jobs within their business:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| √ <b>Five Below</b> (Lancaster)       | <b>Sales Associate</b>                   |
| √ <b>Whole Wheatery</b> (Lancaster)   | <b>Dishwasher</b>                        |
| √ <b>Stater Bros Mkts</b> (Lancaster) | <b>Courtesy Clerk</b>                    |
| √ <b>Macy's</b> (Palmdale)            | <b>Seasonal Floor Recovery Associate</b> |

*Please show your appreciation to these businesses for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in achieving their career aspirations.*

**NEW CREWS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

The following companies, corporations, and organizations have recently contracted with DHE for the listed services within their business:

**Off-Site Habilitation Crews - Antelope Valley**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| √ <b>Agua Dulce Airport</b>              | Expanded Service Area   |
| √ <b>City of Lancaster</b>               | <b>Code Enforcement</b> 18 Addtl Cleanouts / Board Ups  |
| √ <b>Desert Vineyard Church</b>          | Janitorial/Custodial Service Crew   |
| √ <b>Edwards Air Force Base</b>          |   |
| <b>Bldng #1635</b>                       | Weed Abatement Crew   |
| <b>Building #1199</b>                    | Weed Abatement Crew   |
| <b>Building #1217</b>                    | Weed Abatement Crew   |
| <b>NASA</b>                              | Chemical Weed Abatement   |
| <b>Plant 42</b>                          | Weed Abatement Crew   |
| √ <b>Elk's Lodge</b>                     | Grounds Cleanup Crew  |
| √ <b>FPI Property Management</b>         |   |
| <b>Copper Square Apts.</b>               | Vacant Apartment Cleaning Crew  |
| √ <b>Hope of the Valley Thrift Store</b> | Volunteer Retail Service Crew   |
| √ <b>Ironwood Properties</b>             |   |
| <b>Kensington Campus</b>                 | Janitorial/Custodial Crew   |
| √ <b>Michaels Stores</b>                 |   |
| <b>Corporate</b>                         | Cookie Cutter Relabeling Crew<br>Cleaning Supply Relabel/Repack Crew<br>Smoothes Toy Discard Crew |
| √ <b>Minuteman Press</b>                 | Relabeling Production Crew  |
| √ <b>Rustin McNaider Properties</b>      | Janitorial Crew   |

**Off-Site Habilitation Crews - Santa Clarita Valley**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| √ <b>Blue Star Ranch</b>                 | Equine Barn Maintenance Crew  |
| √ <b>Hope of the Valley Thrift Store</b> | Volunteer Retail Service Crew |
| √ <b>Ironwood Properties</b>             |                               |
| <b>Wyandotte Apts</b>                    | Janitorial Crew               |
| <b>Hazeltine Apts</b>                    | Janitorial Crew               |
| <b>Serrano Apts</b>                      | Janitorial Crew               |
| <b>Stevenson Apts</b>                    | Janitorial Crew               |
| √ <b>Swan Center Outreach</b>            | Equine Barn Maintenance Crew  |