

**Arc Minnesota**  
**770 Transfer Road, Suite 26**  
**St. Paul, MN 55114**  
**651-523-0823 or 1-800-582-5256**  
**mail@arcminnesota.com**  
**www.arcminnesota.com**

**Informational Alert: 2/12/03**  
**Topic: Rebasing of the MR/RC Waiver**

***Definition:***

***Rebasing*** is the recalculation by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) of the funding available to the counties for the MR/RC Waiver beginning calendar year 2003. It is the intent of rebasing to limit the future growth of the waiver. Counties were informed about the funds available to them on January 17, 2003.

***Overview:***

Rebasing was done administratively by DHS, not through the Legislature. The result is a different dollar amount than was authorized previously to each county. A major problem is that there are 87 different counties, and the effect of rebasing, or the amount of money (usually a reduction) varies greatly between counties. Some counties who have done a good job of using waiver dollars more efficiently have been hardest hit. Smaller counties with less flexibility in their waiver budgets will also be more pressed to reduce their expenditures to the level given by DHS.

One other facet of this is that DHS had hoped that by rebasing and limiting future growth in the waiver budget, they could hold off potential serious cuts in the next round of the budget cuts to balance the 2004/05 deficit of \$4.2 billion. This may or may not be a reality. DHS estimates that rebasing will reduce MR/RC waiver spending for the next biennium by \$63 million.

Dakota and Ramsey Counties have held meetings with the families of waiver recipients and with providers. Dakota has informed its providers that their rates will be reduced by 7%, families with children will have their CDCS budgets decreased by 20% and CDCS adult recipients will have their budgets reduced 15%. Ramsey County is reducing its provider rates by 5%, and families' rates will be adjusted by the full implementation of their matrix assessment. 70% of families in Ramsey receiving CDCS will have their budgets reduced.

Arc staff members have reported that Carver, Anoka, Scott, Rock, and Stearns Counties are all facing rebasing challenges.

***What has been done:***

- Arc Minnesota, working with the Minnesota Disability Law Center, has asked DHS Commissioner Kevin Goodno to “change the re-basing proposal so that individuals with developmental disabilities will not experience across-the-board cuts in their current service agreements.”
- Arc staff have attended Dakota County and Ramsey County meetings and have met with these counties and DHS to seek resolution to this issue. We have had ongoing discussions with DHS to alert them to our concerns.

***What you can do:***

1. Share your concerns about rebasing and its effects with your legislator. See the message attached to this e-mail “Rebasing Speaking Points,” for tips on what you might say. This action is resulting in cuts in service in a number of counties. **If rebasing stands as is, then it has to be considered as a cut when the 2004/2005 budget is proposed.**
2. Chapter representatives should continue to stay in touch with County Supervisors of the Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities in order to stay updated on the impact of rebasing. Please e-mail any information to Steve Larson at [arcmn115@yahoo.com](mailto:arcmn115@yahoo.com).

***Your Rights:***

To review your rights when waived services are changed, go to the Arc Minnesota website at [www.arcminnesota.com](http://www.arcminnesota.com). Click on “Waivered Services,” then click on “What are My Appeal Rights?” If your service plan is being changed, your county social worker should be informing you of your rights. Contact your local Arc chapter for individual advocacy needs.

## REBASING SPEAKING POINTS:

Here are some talking points to use when speaking to or writing to your legislators about rebasing of the waiver. Most legislators are not familiar with rebasing, so it has to be explained to them.

- Rebasing of the MR/RC waiver is the recalculation of funding available to counties beginning with calendar year 2003. Many counties received reductions in their MR/RC waiver budgets. Our county (\_\_\_\_\_) says its budget was reduced by \_\_\_\_\_ (fill this in if you have this information).
- My county (\_\_\_\_\_) has announced that as a result of rebasing they will be reducing our budget by \_\_\_\_\_ (% or dollars). As a result we are going to have eliminate the following services: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rebasing was supposed to reduce future growth in the waiver (\$63 million in the next biennium). No one knew that it was going to have an immediate impact on our waiver budgets this year.
- If rebasing continues to be implemented, then the \$63 million reduction in future growth needs to be considered in the Governor's budget proposal to be announced on 2/18/03.
- The Minnesota Department of Human Services needs to address the significant reductions in some counties that impact the health and safety of waiver recipients.

If you need assistance, please contact your local Arc office.