



State Budget Cuts Could Force The Golden Umbrella to Close

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Some health care facilities are facing major cuts, in the form of Governor Brown's newly proposed budget.

The plan would eliminate state funding for adult day care services, which provide physical therapy, preventive medical care, among other services, to seniors and the disabled.



The budget cuts would impact over 300 facilities across the state and affect some 37,000 senior citizens.

Places like The Golden Umbrella in Redding, which deal mostly with medical patients, could be forced to close their doors.

The Golden Umbrella has been in Redding for 42 years. It's far more than just a senior center but without the revenue from the adult day health care program the facility would likely have to shut down.

"It is about 85 percent of our population here," said Golden Umbrella Program Director, Kay Hudelson.

There are about 65 senior in Golden Umbrella's adult day care program like 90-year-old Lou Prnjak, who spends three days a week at the center.

"I come and I feel better. If I don't go I feel lost," said Prnjak.

For Prnjak and others like her, the center closing would mean almost complete isolation.

"The Golden Umbrella has helped me to do exercise and be around other people," she explained. "Otherwise I would be sitting home."

The center is open five days a week and provides overall care for seniors including transportation, physical therapy, a nursing staff, and social workers.

“It really does make a difference in their lives,” said Hudelson.

She believes that losing such centers will leave seniors and their families with limited options and could force some seniors out of their homes and into nursing homes.

“They may not even be able to be placed up here because there is only a certain number of beds in every area, so they may be placed in Williams or farther south.”