



Adult Day Care Gets Reprieve

State continues Medi-Cal funding for adult day care programs until the end of February, 2012.

By [Marsha Dorgan](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 18, 2011

Patients currently receiving Medi-Cal funding for adult day care services are getting a reprieve.

On Thursday, the state said it will continue to fund the [Adult Day Health Care](#) program until Feb 29, 2012, at which time those who qualify will be transitioned over to a new program called Community-Based Adult Services.

Last June, Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed legislation that would have preserved the adult day programs, effecting 35,000 clients at 300 state adult day centers.

The news is a huge sigh of relief for the Medi-Cal clients who make up 60 percent of the 110 patients in the [Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services](#) programs, according to NVHDS Program Director Celine Regalia.

If the state funding ceased, the center would have been restricted from billing Medi-Cal for those patients' care, she said. "We could no longer afford to be able to provide care for them."

Next March, the state will begin screening patients for eligibility to enter the new CBAS program.

"The program is so new we don't have a complete list of the criteria the clients must meet," Regalia said.

"It is based on income and need. I feel very confident that all the patients at our center will meet the criteria."

Regalia said the center will work with those who don't qualify for CBAS to come up with an alternative plan.

"Anyone who is at high risk for skilled nursing care or hospitalization is usually frail and has medical conditions that will qualify them for the CBAS program," she said.

The reprieve is also a godsend for the clients' caregivers.

"Many of the caregivers have full-time jobs or medical problems of their own," Regalia said.

"Many of the clients cannot be left alone. The Adult Day Health Center allows the caregivers to continue working. It also gives them a break from their duties of caring for an person with medical problems."

The 23 staff members at NVHDS monitor the patients' health and provide the personal care each one needs. The program also has many volunteers.

Medi-Cal pays \$76 a day per patient, which is split between the federal and state governments.

Transportation to and from the center is also included in the \$76.

The adult day services program has kept "many, many" patients in their homes and out of convalescent homes or hospitals, Regalia said.

"The new CBAS program may not be the exact same program as our clients know it now," she said. "But it will still be able to access the same services."