

Adult Day Health Care-like services will continue under settlement

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A class action filed against the state by advocates for the disabled over elimination of Medi-Cal funding for Adult Day Health Care services was settled Thursday.

The funding cut — adopted as part of the 2011-12 state budget — was scheduled to take effect Dec. 1.

The settlement provides for continued ADHC-like services for people at risk of institutionalization in a new program called Community-Based Adult Services.

Similar to ADHC, the new program will offer center-based skilled health and nursing care, therapy, transportation and other services to eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

Under the settlement, the ADHC elimination date has been moved to Feb. 29, 2012 to ease the transition of eligible patients to the new program — and to provide time for the court to review the settlement and grant final approval.

It is estimated that roughly half the 37,000 frail elders and disabled adults who currently receive services will qualify for the new program. Eligibility will be determined by state medical professionals on the basis of medical need and the benefits will be coordinated with managed care plans.

The settlement will save the state about \$28 million in 2011-12, increasing to \$92 million in 2012-13, while continuing to provide services to patients who need them the most.

“This settlement preserves the rights of plaintiffs and class members under the Americans with Disabilities Act to continue to live in their own homes and communities, and receive the health care services and support needed to remain independent,” [Elissa Gershon](#), senior attorney for Disability Rights California — the advocacy group that filed the class action — said in a news release.

State health officials applauded the settlement, too.

“This agreement upholds the state’s commitment to provide essential care and services to those most in need efficiently and economically,” [Toby Douglas](#), director of the **California Department of Health Care Services**, said in a news release.