

IHSS Advance Pay allows the severely disabled recipient financial control over their IHSS payments.

Why is this important?

Let's look at this example: "Mary" is severely disabled. She requires help with all activities of daily living. Mary does not know she is eligible for Advance Pay.

"Rose", Mary's IHSS provider abruptly decides to return to her hometown. Rose's hometown could be in another state, or even in another country. Without Advance Pay, Mary's IHSS checks continue to be sent to Rose's former address.

Meanwhile, Mary needs to hire a new IHSS provider. But ... where will Mary find the money to hire a new provider? The checks are made out to Rose, the former provider, and are going to Rose's former address. The State bureaucracy "who this is we do not know" and the County bureaucracy "who this is we do not know" say that new timesheets and new checks can be generated, but ... first ... the new provider must go through a background check, and ... and ...

Until all of this time consuming bureaucratic shuffle is completed, Mary is alone ... without help for the simplest tasks, let alone things like eating or going to the bathroom!

Now, if Mary had known she was eligible for Advance Pay, the IHSS check would have been made out to her, and mailed to her address. When Rose left, she would no longer receive pay. And, Mary would have the remaining money to hire a new provider.

You can see that IHSS Advance Pay is important.

But wait. There is a related problem. Even though the Advance Pay check is going to Mary, the timesheet is still going to Rose's former address. Without a timesheet, Mary is still unable to receive IHSS payments!

IHSS Advance Pay is extremely helpful. Advance Pay allows the severely disabled IHSS recipient financial control over their IHSS payments ... but only if they also have control of the timesheets. State regulation (§30-769.73) says, "It shall be the responsibility of the recipient who receives payment in advance to submit his/her provider's timesheets at the end of each authorized service month."

According to statute, it is the recipient's responsibility ... but is difficult to exercise that responsibility if the timesheets are sent to a different address.

I strongly suggest that the legislature direct the Chico processing bureaucracy "who this is we do not know" to send the IHSS timesheets to the same address as the check. And ... if a direct request is ignored, the legislature must amend the IHSS statutes to require this!