



# The EEDA READER

It was recently announced that President Biden, Senator Schumer and other senate leaders had come to an agreement on a [\\$3.5 trillion budget resolution](#), which could mean historic investments in home and community based services (HCBS).

Unfortunately, the previous HCBS funding proposal could be cut from \$400 billion to \$150 billion! **Tweet, email, and call Senate Majority Leader Schumer** to let him know that this is crucial to our families and the direct care workforce.

**He is our senator and must lead this fight!**

### Email Senator Schumer

Add your own story to the message below and submit via [Sen. Schumer's Contact Form](#).

<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>

Dear Sen. Schumer,

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are key to ensuring people with disabilities are included in the community, but the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a long-standing crisis in recruiting/retaining direct care workers. Senator Schumer, please ensure that all \$400B proposed by President Biden is included in the reconciliation package. This is a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our care economy infrastructure and New York needs you to stand firm and advocate for us!

Sincerely,  
(Your Name)

Come join us for our annual EEDA Picnic on August 27 from 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. at the Indian Island Park pavilion. For more information, please email: [CamdenA@eed-a.org](mailto:CamdenA@eed-a.org)

Make sure to check out the [www.eed-a.org](http://www.eed-a.org) home page for our ongoing basket sweepstakes!

New baskets added monthly and all proceeds support EEDA. Good luck!



Save the date for EEDA's Golf Classic on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at the Westhampton Country Club.



Kelly, Self-Direction Participant

### Gabby and Erika



Gabby's been utilizing EEDA's Self-Direction services a few days a week since she hired Erika Jaymysyn, her Best Buddy mentor in February 2020. They love to play Battleship, checkers, mini golf, basketball, and cornhole. They also love painting seashells and getting together with other friends from Best Buddies. One time they all met for a picnic at the beach and got caught in a torrential downpour, which turned out to be a really memorable day.

Gabby likes spending time with Erika because she's fun and they laugh a lot. Gabby said, "Erika's so funny."

Erika's been a great support to Gabby and has enabled her to have a more active social life. Erika said, "I know it will be a good day when I hang out with Gabby, no matter what's going on."

Erika and Gabby both played on the Connetquot basketball team, and this year Gabby was recognized as a star player, receiving the "Varsity Athletic Coach Award in Unified Basketball." Gabby really wanted to go to her Senior Prom, and although Erika was no longer a student, she was able to accompany Gabby, making it an unforgettable experience. Gabby said she even lost her voice that night!



When Gabby met with us, she was going to her first job interview, and with Erika's support, we know she's bound for success!

### Self-Directed Services

Self-Direction empowers people with intellectual disabilities to manage the supports they receive, determine who provides their services, and how and where they are provided. EEDA has been chosen as the Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for over 400 people on Long Island who utilize Self-Directed Services. Each participant in EEDA's FI has a single point of contact to help manage their services and budget. Self-Direction encourages people to focus on community supports to create a truly individualized plan that maximizes potential and creates opportunities for happy lives. For more information, call our Fiscal Intermediary office at 631-369-7345 ext. 161.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit everyone hard, but thanks to the flexibility of self-direction, EEDA was able to offer services to meet participants' needs. We immediately embraced the use of Telehealth, even before the shutdown of Day Programs and schools. Our primary goals were to keep everyone safe, distribute protective personal equipment, and to implement recommended safety procedures when positive cases came were identified to stop the spread. Unfortunately, we were not unscathed by the pandemic and lost friends and family. But the Self-Direction department made herculean efforts in processing budget and plan changes to meet individual needs and reviewing the nuances of remote classes and memberships as they pertained to Medicaid. Not only did services continue, EEDA's FI continued welcoming new participants to the program. We are proud of the efforts put forth by all EEDA FI employees, but especially for the wonderful DSPs that continued to provide supports on the front line. We look forward to continuing to adapt to our changing world.



Derek, Self-Direction Participant

