

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Office of the State Auditor



Ralph Campbell, Jr.
State Auditor

2 S. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC
Mailing Address: 20601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0601
Telephone: (919) 807-7500
Fax: (919) 807-7647
Internet <http://www.ncauditor.net>

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

October 12, 2004

For additional information contact:

Ralph Campbell, Jr., State Auditor
(919) 807-7500
rcampbel@ncauditor.net

Program aimed at disabled adults needs some fine-tuning, additional study, Auditor Ralph Campbell says in new audit

RALEIGH _ A state program intended to help poor, disabled adults stay at home rather than enter a nursing facility needs some fine-tuning and additional study on the quality of its medical and clinical programs, State Auditor Ralph Campbell said in a new audit released Tuesday.

A performance audit of the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) was requested by the Legislature, but lawmakers did not approve funding for experts who could assess the medical care offered by the program. Campbell decided to review the implementation and administration of the program, but without the medical assessment that would require outside experts.

Auditors made a number of suggestions to improve the program, including providing laptop computers for case managers, refining the payment system and updating the program manual and job descriptions. The program, which covers all 100 counties, served 11,727 people with a budget of \$218 million in the budget year that ended June 30. Of those funds, \$63.5 million came from the State and \$11.2 million from local governments.

Auditors found that 87 percent of the people served by the program would qualify for an intermediate care facility, while 13 percent would qualify for a skilled nursing facility if the program was not available to help them remain at home. Services ranged from the preparation and delivery of meals to an in-home aide. People in the program must meet medical, functional and financial eligibility standards.

“These are some of our most vulnerable citizens,” Campbell said in releasing the report. “Our audit indicates that the program can be beneficial in helping disabled citizens to remain in their own homes, which is a key consideration for many people. I hope at some point we can assess the medical and clinical aspects of the program to ensure the quality of the treatment our disabled adults are receiving.”



The report is available on-line at <http://www.ncauditor.net/EPSSWeb/EDSreportdetail.asp?RepNum=PER-2004-0208>

Copies of the report may be obtained at the office's web site at www.ncauditor.net. Printed copies of the report can be obtained by filing a request under the Audits section of the web site or by calling the Office of the State Auditor at 919-807-7500.

