

## Carey: More workers for retardation centers

By MARC HUMBERT

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The state's deinstitutionalization program for the mentally retarded, labeled a flop by some critics, just isn't moving fast enough, according to Gov. Hugh Carey.

And the upshot of it all, the governor said Monday, is that the state must add almost 3,000 institutional workers at its 20 centers for the mentally retarded.

Carey said he would seek legislative approval for the creation of 1,355 institutional positions for the state's Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities when the Legislature returns to Albany, probably in mid-November.

That hiring could cost in excess of \$10 million annually, although state officials said they couldn't provide an immediate, "firm" estimate of the cost.

And Carey said that, in the mean-

time, the agency will "reassign some positions budgeted for community residences" in its drive to up the staffing ratio at the state's 20 developmental centers.

"That involves about 1,500 positions," according to William Knowlton, a spokesman for the state's mental retardation office.

The governor noted that his request for more institutional workers was in addition to the 700 jobs he recently made available to the agency through the lifting of a hiring freeze. The agency currently has about 23,000 workers caring for about 13,500 patients.

The state's deinstitutionalization program has been under almost constant attack. Supporters claim it has moved too slowly while opponents have done their best to stop the establishment of community residences in residential neighborhoods.