



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

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Achieve with us.

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My name is Leo Sarkissian and I serve as Executive Director of The Arc. The Arc of Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization, was established 61 years ago to enhance the lives of the nearly 200,000 Massachusetts citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism and their families. Together with our 18 regional chapters across the Commonwealth and other partners, we accomplish our mission through advocacy of supports and services based in the communities we serve.

We thank the chairs and committee members for their support of services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. We appreciate the FY'2017 budget which included an investment in Family Support, Turning 22 and other services.

As you can see from the budget request we have passed out since February 1, The Arc's main priority is adjusting the Turning 22 formula which was included in Governor Baker's 2018 budget proposal. The last time this formula was adjusted was in the 1990s for nearly 500 graduates who needed adult services. Today there are nearly 1,000 adults and a major readjustment is needed.

In addressing the formula you are adjusting two fiscal years of support—next year's graduates through the Turning 22 line item and this year's 2017 graduates through three other line items: Day/Employment, Residential and Transportation. The list below details the lines- but I won't read them for the testimony. The goal of the funding is to address in some way all 950 to 975 graduates of each year.

The Arc in Massachusetts Includes the Following Local Chapters:

*Berkshire County • Bristol County • Brockton Area • Cape Cod • Center of Hope Foundation
Charles River Center • EMarc • Greater Haverhill-Newburyport • Greater Lawrence • LifeLinks • Greater Plymouth • Greater
Waltham • Minute Man AHS • Northeast • The Arc of Opportunity (North Central) • South Norfolk County • South Shore • The
United Arc*

Detail

- 5920-5000 Turning 22 line meets the first year needs of Turning 22 students. This account serves new people each year-\$24.2 Million. For the future, full year, the annualized dollars are placed into the funding accounts below:
- 5911-2000 Transportation-annualized transportation for those served- \$23,838,463
- 5920-2025 Day/Employment Services-annualized day or employment supports and those already served- \$205,139,405
- 5920-2000 Community Residential-primary account to annualize T22 services but there is also a state-operated community line; approximately 25% of T22 graduating class receive residential services- \$1,170,331,170

The T22 graduates comprise two large groups

1. Individuals living with families at home attending local, regional, collaborative or private high schools - this equals about 70% of the Turning 22 group
2. Individuals already living outside the family home, e.g., 24-hr residential school funded by LEA (local school districts), foster care, or other entity such as Mass. Hospital School, etc.

In closing, the Committee by funding our request accomplishes a number of things:

- It memorializes what the legislature has done for most of the past several years in regard to annualization -that is the second full year of funding in the three program accounts
- It closes the big gap in Turning 22 dollars, some of which will now also assist those with autism and developmental disabilities
- It acknowledges that if funding is not approved a high percentage of the graduating students will end up in a less desirable situation, either at home or in the MassHealth day habilitation program where employment will not be an option, and,
- You will assist adults who need assistance today- many of whom will be left in a very vulnerable situation if funding is not provided.

In closing please remember that these funds are reimbursed by the federal government at 50%. Thank you for this opportunity to come before you. We appreciate your consideration.