



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Highlights for FY'2019 Final Budget

On July 18, The Arc of Massachusetts celebrated the release of the Massachusetts Conference Committee Budget for FY 2019. The budget was finalized in August when the legislature took up overrides and returned it to the Governor.

The House and Senate advanced services at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) with nearly \$70 Million in additional funding, inclusive of the annual Turning 22 support. Turning 22 or transition funding for those graduating high school should meet the initial needs of the graduating class of both those with intellectual and developmental disabilities --\$25.15 Million.

Also increasing were the following line items:

- Residential Services
- Family Support
- Day and Employment Services
- Autism Omnibus – this increase reflects transfer of funds to address ongoing needs of those who received Turning 22 assistance in 2017 and 2018.
- Transportation
- Autism Children's Waiver

The additional \$1.5 Million for Family support should assist 750 families in need.

Two other priority areas of funding included Adult Foster/Family Care (AFC) and Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI). MassHealth had reduced rates for AFC and the Conference Committee included language to increase those rates by \$2 Million, about 20% of the original reduction. The MAICEI initiative received about \$319,000 in additional funds.

We appreciate that the legislature did acknowledge the challenges facing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families through their allocation decisions.

Despite the positives of this budget, we recognize there will be many with unmet needs or who are underserved. We want to hear from you — and our Advocacy Alliance is here to help small groups of families and individuals advocate locally for personal needs. We realize that more family support funds and adult omnibus dollars (for those who are in their late 20s and older) are needed.