

The Arc of Massachusetts FY'2020 Budget Narrative

Governor Baker's Proposal

The Arc of Massachusetts profoundly thanks Governor Baker for his support of people with disabilities and their families in his new FY'2020 budget proposal starting July 1, 2019. The governor has added significant funding in the areas of housing, employment, transportation, and adult services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including autism.

- 1) The new formula for Turning 22 is sticking. Initiated by Gov. Baker and Secretary Sudders, this program will serve 891 people with ID and 267 people with DD. 245 persons are expected to receive residential services from this class. In this account 1,158 people will begin their transition to adult services in FY'2020 starting on July 1, 2019. Future funding for this year's 1,073 graduates (ending June 30, 2019), is reflected in the accounts below.
- 2) Residential account received significant maintenance funding with \$36 million for Turning 22 annualization of 238 persons and the remainder (approximately \$50 mil) to address increasing needs of people presently served as well as addressing deteriorating housing.
- 3) Day and employment services received maintenance funds of \$22 million with several hundred people (895 projected) needing day supports. This amount should cover annualization but will not be enough for other maintenance needs despite its significance. More is requested.
- 4) Family Support received \$1.5 million in annualization of funds for those individuals with I/DD who turned 22 years old last year. We hope to gain \$3.4 million more for those waiting.
- 5) DESE-DDS program (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education partnership program with Department of Developmental Services) is a great surprise with 61% hike of \$4 million to help address the 778 new applications to keep children with families. The program now serves 500 families. It offers skill building, specialized therapies, increased independence, and social integration in the community. Youth involved in this program often experience more success in school settings.
- 6) The Autism Adult (Omnibus) increase of \$6.9 mil addresses 192 people who graduated last year through the T22 class. This funding continues services from last year. No funding is available for individuals on the waiting list who turned 22 prior to FY'15.
- 7) The Transportation increase of \$4.4 mil will assist with T22 annualization, but we do face some significant problems in this area partly due to the cost of transportation in rural and suburban areas and the need for better coordination.
- 8) State Services including State Operated Community Residential, DDS Admin and Serv. Coord and Facilities all grew to meet collective bargaining agreements – no further staff are included in the increases for those line items.
- 9) Aging with DD is at \$100,000 with a budget reduction of \$30,000 from last year based on the FY 2018 spending. These funds target those with dementia or related conditions.

We want to continue this Administration's forward thinking as significant state investments are needed to help solve the current workforce shortage crisis of direct care staff for families and people with disabilities. This shortage threatens the safety of people with I/DD and their ability to live, work, and contribute in their community.

To learn more, visit www.arcmass.org, follow [@TheArcofMass](https://twitter.com/TheArcofMass) on Twitter, or [join our Facebook community](#).