



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

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Achieve with us.

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The Arc of Massachusetts Interim Report on the Senate Ways and Means FY'2020 Blueprint

Chair Michael Rodrigues and the Senate Ways and Means Committee released their budget with the theme “boldly move forward.” The budget blueprint highlights \$2.1 billion in disability services in its executive summary. The investment in the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) tracks significantly with the Governor’s proposal in areas of housing, employment, transportation, and adult omnibus services.

The Arc thanks Chair Rodrigues and committee members for their strong support.

1. The new formula for Turning 22 (T22) is now solidified with year 3 - recognizing the 1,000 plus graduates annually requiring adult services. This year, the projections include 891 people with intellectual disability (ID) and 267 people with developmental disability without ID (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. (Funding for graduates from this year is reflected in program accounts that follow.)
2. Residential account will assist 238 persons in this year’s T22 class and the remainder (approximately \$50 million) will address increasing needs of people presently served as well as addressing deteriorating housing. Approximately 11,000 people presently receive residential services.
3. Day and employment services received maintenance funds of \$22 million with several hundred people from last year’s T22 class needing day supports. This amount should cover them, but it will not be adequate for those presently underserved.
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.

The Arc in Massachusetts Includes the Following Local Chapters:

*Berkshire County • Bristol County • Brockton Area • Cape Cod • Center of Hope Foundation • Charles River Center
Communitas, Inc. • Greater Haverhill-Newburyport • Greater Lawrence • LifeLinks, Inc. • Greater Plymouth • Minute Man AHS
Northeast • Opportunities for Inclusion • The Arc of Opportunity • South Norfolk County • South Shore • The United Arc*

5. We appreciate the Senate's advancing the DESE-DDS program (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education partnership program with Department of Developmental Services) with a 61% hike of \$4 million to help address the 778 new applications to keep children with families. The program now serves 570 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 million addresses 192 people who graduated last year through the T22 class. No funding is available for individuals on the waiting list who turned 22 prior to FY'15 or for those who are underserved.
7. The Transportation increase of \$4.4 million 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 Service Coordination 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 request the full \$130,000.

We appreciate the support shown by Senator Rodrigues, Vice-Chair Cindy Friedman, and Assistant Vice-Chair Jason Lewis, along with the rest of the Committee. Thank you to Senators who did carry our constituents' priorities to the committee. We hope we can add to this positive budget to address needs of those underserved.

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