

Supporting Families Supporting Our Workforce

Please maintain the Governor’s proposal for the following DDS budget line items. We are especially thankful for \$7.7 million for Family Support and Respite for family members with intellectual & developmental disabilities, including autism, who are living at home. This increase shows Massachusetts is stepping up to support the tens of thousands of families in need. We are also grateful for the nearly \$8 million to help close the gap for hundreds of adults with autism across the state. The Governor also maintained the Turning 22 formula! Over the next few months, we will be tracking the adequacy of the other investments.

Title	DDS Line Item	Funding
Family Support and Respite	5920-3000	\$77,853,898
Turning 22	5920-5000	\$25,051,713
DESE-DDS	5948-0012 7061-0012	\$10,500,000
Autism Children’s Waiver	5920-3010	\$7,429,571
Community Day & Employment	5920-2025	\$253,891,529
Transportation	5911-2000	\$33,287,751
Autism Omnibus	5920-3020	\$38,586,296
Community Residential	5920-2000	\$1,287,631,747
Technology/Innovation	5920-2003	\$500,000

The Arc is grateful for the proposed significant increases that will affect rates for the workforce that supports people with disabilities.

The Governor proposes funding of \$160,000,000 (for the Chapter 257 POS Reserve, and certain rate setting methodology changes). However, we face a workforce crisis that is based on years of history where rates didn’t reflect real costs. This crisis has left us at a tipping point with up to 50% turnover and 30% vacancy rates. We are losing front-line managers and clinicians to the health care field.

Direct Support



is a lifesaver!

Today, provider agencies often rely on temporary, unfamiliar relief staff to fill critical care positions. Families and individuals cannot find direct support staff to fill approved home care hours funded by MassHealth or DDS programs. Health and safety are at risk and isolation is too common in people’s lives. This request is the first step in addressing the crisis across programs and services. This rate increase is across EOHHS for specific Chapter 257 services, and at DDS, the impact will be felt primarily in residential supports.

Please prioritize funding for the Chapter 257 POS Reserve and increase these funds by \$60 million to \$220 million so that Direct Support Professionals can move closer to a starting wage of \$17 per hour - and to stop the exodus of staff at all levels.

**Ask your legislator to make Chapter 257
Purchase of Service (POS) Reserve - 1599-6903 a priority!**