

## MAINTAIN THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL.

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 and have been doing 24/7 care since the pandemic hit. This increase will help 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! Now more than ever, people with disabilities need adequate support through DDS.

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

## MAINTAIN THE CHAPTER 257 POS RESERVE AND THE WORKFORCE 1599-6903

The Arc is grateful for the proposed significant increases that will affect rates for the workforce that supports people with disabilities. **These front-line workers have been heroes during the COVID-19 crisis**, keeping our most vulnerable individuals safe and comforted during the worst of times. The Governor proposed funding of \$160,000,000 for several state agencies. On Friday, February 21, EOHHS announced rates for community residential services (ALTR) at an estimated increase of 10.2% or \$125 million of the reserve. ALTR at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Mass. Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), and Mass. Commission for the Blind (MCB) are included in the \$125 million rate increase. Rate increases for other agencies will be allocated through the funds remaining in this rate reserve.

On top of the workforce challenges that have come with COVID-19, we face a workforce crisis partly 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. 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. Especially now, health and safety are at risk.

This request is the first step in addressing the crisis across programs and services.

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