

April 28, 2022



The Arc's FY2023 Budget Request

This unprecedented direct support workforce shortage layered on top of the pandemic, has stopped the transitions of many individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) to adult services and approximately 7,000 adults with disabilities have had no or limited day services and are still waiting! We strongly urge the Senate to increase FY'23 Budget funding for the workforce!

Chapter 257 & Human Service Reserve¹ (Line Item 1599-6903) - \$580M (\$350M above H2 & House)
From providers serving congregate care settings to individuals with disabilities who need supports in their homes, the entire service delivery system is in crisis recruiting, hiring, and retaining direct support staff. To make sure people with disabilities receive the supports and services required for their health, safety, and meaningful opportunities of community inclusion, we strongly urge the legislature to increase the Governor's H2 proposed rates for these essential staff at \$16.79/per hour to a more competitive rate of \$20/per hour range.

Families are exhausted and scared for their family member's future. There is a real concern in our community that people with IDD and autism are going to be forced back into institutional and segregated settings. The time is NOW to act! **We ask that the Chapter 257 line-item be increased to \$580 million – \$350 million above the Governor's H2 request and the House's budget proposal.**

Maintain DDS/MassHealth Line Items

We greatly appreciate the House making increases to several key Department of Developmental (DDS) line items in the Governor's H2 budget proposal separate from the workforce rate increases. We ask to please maintain these vital line items for programs that address relief for families and individuals and stabilize the service delivery system. (See The Arc's budget chart for more details on maintaining our priority line-item funding: <https://thearcofmass.org/advocacy/state-budget/>).

Additional Workforce Wage Increase Needed for MassHealth Day Programs and AFC

MassHealth Long Term Supports and Services Funding Language (Line Item 4000-0601)
Given the workforce crisis, the 10% staff rate increases from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that ends on June 30, 2022 must be maintained for Day Habilitation services and Adult Foster Care (AFC). These programs are NOT covered by Chapter 257. Due to staff shortages, individuals are still waiting to return to day habilitation programs and AFC programs are struggling to retain nursing staff and caregivers. Also, to help identify caregivers and sustain the AFC program, we request permitting responsible parties (guardians and spouses) to be *paid* AFC caregivers.

Request to allow Flexibilities

DDS and MassHealth Flexibilities Language (Line Items 5911-1003 and 4000-0300)
The goal of flexibilities language is to allow use of funds by individuals who cannot access day congregate services at the present time. Detailed flexibilities language can be found at <https://thearcofmass.org/advocacy/state-budget/>.

For more information, contact Maura Sullivan, Director of Government Affairs, at sullivan@arcmass.org and visit The Arc's advocacy webpage at www.thearcofmass.org/advocacy.

¹ Chapter 257 of the acts of 2008.

**FY'2023 Budget Requests
The Arc of Massachusetts**

Line Item	Description	FY'22 Final Budget*	Gov House 2		FY'23 Senate Request
			Proposal	House Blueprint	
DDS 5911-2000	Transportation	27,095,451	24,878,794	33,869,314	33,869,314
DDS 5920-2000	Community Residential	1,408,349,243	1,442,359,037	1,442,359,037	1,442,359,037
DDS 5920-2025	Community Day/Work	\$234,962,246	227,362,283	278,362,283	278,362,283
DDS 5920-3000	Respite/Fam Support	84,853,898	90,628,537	90,628,537	90,628,537
DDS 5920-2003	Technology for Individuals	500,000	500,000	1,750,000	1,750,000
DDS 5920-3010	Autism Waiver Children	7,433,900	7,478,033	13,933,900	13,933,900
DDS 5920-3020	Autism Omnibus	36,607,970	36,607,970	42,300,000	42,300,000
DDS 5920-3025	Aging w/DD	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
DDS 5920-5000	Turning 22	79,948,997	84,099,551	84,099,551	84,099,551
5948 & 7061-	DESE/DDS In Home	10,500,000	10,500,000	10,500,00	10,500,00
DDS 5920-2010	State Operated Homes	240,637,466	255,482,587	255,482,588	255,482,588
DDS 5911-1003	Admin-Service Coord	82,578,289	87,842,554	88,067,055	88,067,055
DDS 5930-1000	State Schools	103,743,275	109,102,135	109,102,137	109,102,137
4000-0601	MassHealth Senior-Dis*	3,714,225,672	3,725,368,077	3,715,210,993	3,715,210,993
1599-6903	Ch 257 Human Services Reserve	118,400,000	230,000,000	230,000,000	580,000,000*

*Line-item references requests for AFC & other LTSS services at MassHealth which are entitlements

**The Arc request is \$350 million above the Governor's H2 request and the House's budget proposal

See full budget request and chart at first link here
<https://thearcofmass.org/advocacy/state-budget/>