

March 2023 marks the start of the 36th month since the announcement of the state of emergency. At that time thousands of persons with disabilities lost access to day programs or related services. Many of those have not been able to return to day services.

In addition, over 3,000 have turned 22 years of age, with the FY'24, transition age class of graduates being the highest in history. Individuals with complex medical or behavioral conditions or otherwise requiring 1:1 assistance are the largest group which is underserved or unserved. These are individuals who need it the most, and the isolation, along with caregiver stress is profound.

In FY'23, the legislature authorized a bridge to the future, including: "re-design the service system to respond to the new needs... in-home or in-community services... new, more fluid service model based on the real-time, individual needs" (5920-2025). It also provided additional funding for day and transportation services, as well allowing DDS to transfer funds across four (4) line items.

Adequate steps, through this legislative initiative are still not being taken to address the individual and family needs and/or accommodations for providers to meet the gaps.

The Arc's Ask for our Annual Legislative Reception Advocacy:

1. Please maintain Governor Healey's House 1 proposal for DDS and MassHealth. The DDS funding is essential and the \$200 Million investment in MassHealth day programs is a key part of re-entry for our constituents.
2. Help implement the FY'23 language, "Bridge to the Future" and funds for the remainder of this fiscal year.
3. Cosponsor and prioritize SD.2086 & HD.3286 An Act relative to rates for workers providing supports and services for individuals with disabilities.. Sen. Barry Finegold, Reps. Sean Garballey and Simon Cataldo. Bill addresses severe workforce shortage for direct support staff, program managers, and clinicians such as nurses. Minimum salary benchmark of the 75th percentile based on our state's bureau of labor statistics. All DDS services & the Mass Health Day Habilitation program

Other Priority Workforce Bills

1. SD.2348 & HD.3173 An Act establishing a fund to further educational opportunities for caregivers to adults with disabilities. Sen. Mike Barrett & Rep. Dave Rogers. Creates a pilot to provide free community college to direct support staff with two years of service.
2. HD.2455 & SD.1170 An Act relative to family members serving as caregivers. Rep. James O'Day & Sen. Joan Lovely. This bill allows guardians, caregivers, and others with legal standing to be paid for providing AFC and PCA services.

Line Item	Description	FY'22 Final Budget	FY'23 Conference Budget*	FY'24 H1 Proposal
DDS 5911-2000	Transportation	24,878,794	33,869,314	33,535,611
DDS 5920-2000	Community Residential	1,408,349,243	1,442,384,037	1,715,777,146
DDS 5920-2025	Community Day/Work	234,962,246	278,562,283	240,080,258
DDS 5920-3000	Respite/Fam Support	84,853,898	90,628,537	98,053,790
DDS 5920-2003	Technology for Individuals	500,000	1,750,000	2,750,000
DDS 5920-3010	Autism Waiver Children	7,433,900	13,933,900	10,940,691
DDS 5920-3020	Autism Omnibus	36,607,970	42,300,000	52,540,994
DDS 5920-3025	Aging w/DD	100,000	100,000	100,000
DDS 5920-5000	Turning 22	79,948,997	84,099,551	105,653,241
5948 & 7061-0012	DESE/DDS In Home	10,500,000	10,500,00	10,500,000
DDS 5920-2010	State Operated Homes	240,637,466	255,532,588	317,747,049
DDS 5911-1003	Admin-Service Coord	82,578,289	88,212,555	91,022,293
DDS 5930-1000	State Schools	103,743,275	109,102,137	123,632,585
1599-6903	Ch 257 Human Services Reserve	118,000,000	230,000,000	173,000,000

MassHealth Account includes \$200 Million allocation for day services in the division.

MassHealth Accounts	Long Term Services and Support- LTSS within MassHealth			
DDS 5911-2000	Senior Care	3.7 Billion	3.8 billion	4.87 billion
DDS 5920-2000	Fee For Service, and LTSS	3.6 billion	3.8 billion	3.7 billion

The Office of long-term supports and services funds/oversees services for assisting persons with disabilities including day habilitation, adult foster/family care, personal care attendants, continuous or block nursing, durable medical equipment, and adult day health (primarily seniors focused). EOHHS separately funds/oversees medical and program transportation through the “Human Services Transportation” department or HST.