

The Arc is grateful for Governor Healey's FY25 budget, which includes a \$485 million investment in Chapter 257. This is a necessary step toward addressing the significant challenges facing our constituents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) including autism and their families. The magnitude of the current workforce shortage plaguing our community requires continued advocacy for rate increases that provide a competitive wage, to allow for recruitment and retention of staff.

Over 3,000 individuals are waiting for services. The FY25 transition age class, with over 1,400 graduates, is the highest in history. Individuals with complex medical or behavioral conditions or who otherwise require 1:1 assistance are the largest underserved or unserved group. These are individuals who need services the most. The isolation and regression, along with caregiver stress, is profound.

We ask the legislature to:

1. **Maintain the Chapter 257 reserve at \$390 million, plus the \$95 million designated by the legislature's economic development bill to ensure that direct care staff compensation is no less than a median standard of \$20 per hour.**
2. **Maintain all DDS line item funding to increase access to services.**
3. **Oppose MassHealth PCA proposed eligibility change (requiring 10 hours weekly of ADL support) and restore necessary meal prep time.**
4. **In FY24, the legislature authorized transferability for certain DDS line items. Please continue this language to increase flexibility to reach those unserved.**
5. **Ensure Governor's proposed DESE-DDS funding is noted in the 7061-0012 line item as in previous years (transfer to 5948-0012).**
6. **Pass Nicky's Law Expansion to protect individuals with autism and IDD from abuse and neglect.**
7. **For a greater understanding of the current crisis, see our "I'm Still Waiting" Campaign here: thearcofmass.org/waiting**

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

Budget Ask FY'25

Line Item	Description	FY24 Conference Budget	FY25 H2 Proposal	Change	% Change
DDS 5911-2000	Transportation	33,535,611	40,017,443	6,481,832	19%
DDS 5920-2000	Community Residential	1,715,777,146	1,698,579,657	18,215,511	1%
DDS 5920-2025	Community Day/Work	229,330,258	288,021,407	58,691,149	26%
DDS 5920-3000	Respite/Fam Support	98,053,790	119,420,577	21,366,787	22%
DDS 5920-2003	Technology for Individuals	1,750,000	3,250,000	500,000	18%
DDS 5920-3010	Autism Waiver Children	9,940,691	10,957,296	1,016,605	10%
DDS 5920-3020	Autism Omnibus	52,540,994	61,917,941	9,376,947	18%
DDS 5920-3025	Aging w/DD	100,000	100,000	-	-
DDS 5920-5000	Turning 22	105,653,241	124,104,015	18,450,774	17%
5948 & 7061-0012	DESE/DDS In Home	10,500,000	10,500,000	-	-
DDS 5920-2010	State Operated Homes	317,747,049	333,099,736	15,352,687	5%
DDS 5911-1003	Admin-Service Coord	91,572,294	117,990,802	26,418,508	29%
DDS 5930-1000	State Schools	123,632,584	124,809,632	1,177,048	1%
4000-0601*	Mass Health Keep Day Invest.	4.487 billion	4.580 billion	93,139,945	2%
1599-6903	Ch 257 Human Services Reserve	230,000,000	390,000,000	160,000,000	70%

Note: 1599-6903: Due to biennial rate reviews, the FY23 Chapter 257 figures is the relevant figure for comparison. In addition to the \$390 million, there is \$95 million in the Economic Development Chapter 257 Reserve which also will be used for this year's rate increases. We cannot confirm the DESE figure of \$10.5 million as typically it is not visible in the Governor's budget proposal, but we expect it is there.

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