

Advocates & Allies Fact Sheet- FY2023 Budget Request

This March (2022) marks 24 months of COVID's profound impact on the disability community! Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), including autism – and their families – have experienced significant service disruptions such as:

- *More than 5000 adults with IDD – many with complex medical or behavioral challenges – have lost their access to day services*
- *Majority of the 3000+ youth who turned 22 during COVID are unserved or woefully underserved*
- *Transportation services have been significantly reduced because of cost increases and labor shortages, and have lacked the flexibility to meet clients' needs*
- *Disabled individuals and their families are struggling because funding for in-home supports is precluded by inflexible regulations and the constraints of Medicaid waiver agreements.*
- *An unprecedented direct support workforce shortage has stopped many transitions to adult services and across such services.*
- *Youth in school and home have struggled because of limited accommodations and support.*

COVID has changed our world, and our system of supports must change with it. Appropriate funding is key! The FY'23 budget must provide lifeline supports for families & individuals, stabilize the service delivery system, and enable providers to attract and retain workers in a highly competitive environment. In The Arc's FY'23 budget request chart below, we recommend the following funding increases:

- Day/Community Employment – The Governor's FY23 budget is more than 10% lower than his proposed budget for FY21, but underutilization of programs due to pandemic constraints is a temporary condition. Going forward, funding must support the entire eligible population, including the several thousand individuals who turned 22 over the course of the pandemic.
- Transportation – Funding must increase to address rising costs (labor and vehicles) and to allow greater flexibility when traditional transportation options fall short.
- Technology – Additional funding will advance the use of assistive technology (AT), leading to opportunities for greater independence; expansion of remote supports and monitoring technology (RST) will enhance the efficiency of staff support and supervision.
- Autism Waiver – COVID has stressed early intervention programs and created additional behavioral health challenges.
- Autism Omnibus-Adults – Additional funding is required to serve 300 new adults.
- DESE DDS – Targeted relief is required to support an additional 40 older youth whose challenging behaviors puts them at risk for out-of-home placement
- MassHealth Day Habilitation and AFC – ARPA funds need to be made permanent

But additional funding will not entirely resolve the problems in the existing service delivery system. Changes in regulations and waiver agreements are needed too. Both previously served individuals with disabilities and new additions to the DDS-eligible population are at home with their families or spending days in residential program settings while awaiting a return to day programs, while their funding remains tethered to prior or non-existent placements. Our proposed language amendments address the need for funding to be flexible and transferable within and between programs. For language, see full request at <https://thearcofmass.org/advocacy/state-budget/> and pick first link (fact sheet and budget chart).

Chapter 257 Request and 75th Percentile

Service providers, individuals, and families continue to face challenges recruiting, hiring, and retaining direct support staff, which severely impacts the supports and services needed. Chapter 257 (1599-6903) requires \$580 Million this year to accomplish the goal of having direct support workforce salary benchmark meet similar Massachusetts occupation titles at the 75th percentile based on current Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data. This would get these essential staff into the \$20/per hour range and above to deal with this crisis. The total is \$350 Million above House 2 request.

The Arc’s Proposed FY 2023 Budget Requests

Line Item	Description	FY'22 Final Budget*	Gov House 2 Proposal	FY'23 Request	Request Amount
DDS 5911-2000	Transportation	27,095,451	24,878,794	33,869,314	8,990,520
DDS 5920-2000	Community Residential	1,408,349,243	1,442,359,037	1,442,359,037	0
DDS 5920-2025	Community Day/Work	\$234,962,246	227,362,283	278,362,283	51,000,000
DDS 5920-3000	Respite/Fam Support	84,853,898	90,628,537	90,628,537	0
DDS 5920-2003	Technology for Individuals	500,000	500,000	3,000,000	2,500,000
DDS 5920-3010	Autism Waiver Children	7,433,900	7,478,033	8,433,900	955,867
DDS 5920-3020	Autism Omnibus	36,607,970	36,607,970	42,000,000	5,392,030
DDS 5920-3025	Aging w/DD	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
DDS 5920-5000	Turning 22	79,948,997	84,099,551	84,099,551	0
5948 & 7061-0012	DESE/DDS In Home***	10,500,000		11,500,000	1,000,000
DDS 5920-2010	State Operated Homes*	240,637,466	255,482,587		
DDS 5911-1003	Admin-Service Coord*	82,578,289	87,842,554		
DDS 5930-1000	State Schools	103,743,275	109,102,135		
4000-0601****	MassHealth Senior-Disab*	3,714,225,672	3,725,368,077		
1599-6903	Ch 257 Reserve	118,400,000	230,000,000	580,000,000	350,000,000

*Missing request amounts due to lack of information; FY'22 includes supp. \$ to best of our knowledge

**AnF spending on web doesn't appear to include initial \$81 M authorized in 2022 for 1599-6903

***5948-0012 No language or data avail on DESE DDS but assume there