



# FY 18 BUDGET ASK

Fulfilling the Promise of Inclusion and Employment



## Line Item 5920-2025 ..... *DDS Day and Employment*

Day and Employment programs are essential in promoting community integration. People with I/DD want to work but face high rates of under and unemployment. Earning wages gives each individual a sense of dignity and self-sufficiency. In the last two years, the Commonwealth has closed sheltered workshops promising to help people find jobs in the community; however, this effort has been harmed by cuts in employment funding.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund DDS Day/Employment at \$233 million to reflect increased costs associated with closing sheltered workshops and moving people into more staff intensive Community-Based Day Supports (CBDS) and Supported Employment and to fulfill the DDS Employment Blueprint recommendations.



## Line Item 5920-5000 ..... *DDS Turning 22*

In 2017, over 940 students will be graduating from special education schools and moving into the adult disability system. These individuals will need planning supports to successfully transition into a variety of services, such as residential, employment and family support services.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund at \$22 million addressing significant size of the graduating class.



## Line Item 5920-2000 ..... *DDS Residential*

The Governor and Legislature have strengthened community Residential programs through Chapter 257. Services are also being diversified with Shared Living opportunities to enhance consumer choice.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund DDS Residential at \$1.3 B to maintain FFP, provide participants with privacy and security, and promote Shared Living.
- Cost share with providers the designation and employment of community integration specialists.



## Line Item 5920-3020 ..... *Adult Autism (Omnibus) Services*

Since DDS has expanded its eligibility in 2014, hundreds of persons with autism qualify for services and supports.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund Autism Omnibus at \$20 M to address rising need of people with autism seeking support.



## Line Item 5920-2010 ..... *DDS Autism Waiver for Children*

Providing services earlier for children is critical. Waiver covers ages 9 years and under.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund DDS Autism Waiver for Children at \$7.5 M to meet the demand.

## Line Item 5920-3000 ..... *DDS Respite and Family Support*

ADDP also endorses an increase for this account as recommended by the Massachusetts' Supporting Families Campaign.

Thus, we urge the Governor and Legislature to:

- Fund an additional \$10 M to last year's appropriation.