Governor Baker signed the fiscal year 2023 budget July 28, 2022.

The Governor’s original proposed investment in the Chapter 257 line item for Health and Human Service Reserve stands firm at $230M. Language requires that 75% of Ch. 257 received funds for compensation of “direct care, front-line and medical and clinical staff, which may include, but shall not be limited to, hourly rate increases, wraparound benefits, shift differentials, overtime, hiring and retention bonuses or recruitment, as defined by the executive office.”

The final bill language for Chapter 257 also requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to report on “a comparison of the median salary for each classification of staff position with the seventy-fifth [75th] percentile wage estimate for that position as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Massachusetts in the most recent available data.”

The Governor invested additional funding, as compared to his original January budget proposal, into the following line items of importance to ADDP:

- Community Day/Work Programs totaling $278.5M (increased from $227.3M)
- DDS Transportation totaling $33.8M (increased from $24.8M)
- Autism Omnibus totaling $42.3M (increased from 36.6M)
- DDS Technology totaling $1.7M (increased from $500K)

Separate from the state budget bill, ADDP and its colleagues are waiting on the passage of another piece of legislation related to economic growth and relief for the Commonwealth that is expected to increase funding for Chapter 257 services.

ADDP appreciates the Governor’s support of these line items and the membership for its tireless advocacy on the state budget and impending economic development bill.

For more information on final budget numbers for line items tracked by ADDP, you can check out ADDP’s FY’23 Budget Request.