

Governor's House One Budget Due Next Week



House One will spell out Governor Patrick's Priorities

The Governor of the Commonwealth is required to submit a balanced budget. As the Governor's team constructs their recommendations to the Legislature, they will attempt to reinforce policy recommendations through the allocation of the state's resources.

Building the FY 2012 Budget is expected to be a particularly challenging task this year, as the State faces the loss of enhanced Federal Medicaid Match which had helped the state navigate the last three budget cycles. A&F Secretary Jay Gonzalez, House Ways and Means Chair Charley Murphy and Senate Ways & Means Committee members have agreed that the state must shed an additional \$1.5 billion of state spending to balance next year's budget.

Many look to the Governor's statements upon his swearing in for his second term for an indication of priorities he plans to address the next four years. That day, Gov. Patrick indicated that a primary consideration of his would be to tackle the high cost of health care, including considering medical malpractice reform and implementing pilot programs aimed at controlling health care costs. The Governor has also pledged to continue investments in education and job creation; as well as facing the difficult decisions brought on by the global recession.

Other issues the Governor pledged to address in his new term include youth violence, pension system reforms, municipal cost-cutting tools, probation and parole system changes, business cost controls, creating "coherence" in sentencing laws, and "a tax code that needs simplicity and fairness."

With respect to the cost of health care, members of the Administration have been looking at the overall increases in the Mass Health (Medicaid) budget, which has seen significant caseload increases since the Commonwealth's adoption of universal health care coverage. The disabilities community is continuing to work with the Administration with regard to recommendations from Mass Health administrators regarding Long Term Care programs, including Day Habilitation and Adult Foster Care. ADDP is concerned about the adequacy of funding these programs which have been suggested for rate reductions.

ADDP Budget Priorities

Members of the disabilities community are cautiously awaiting release of the Governor's House One budget plan.

(right) Governor Deval Patrick visiting with Bridgewell, Inc., Day Hab participant, George, and Nancy Marticio, Director of Day Services during a visit to the Bridgewell Day Habilitation Program last spring.



Many have noted with appreciation the strong effort the Governor and his Administration have made throughout the Great Recession to **protect** programs that serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the FY 11 budget, through the Governor's efforts (and the Legislature's concurrence), the Administration was able to use enhanced federal reimbursement to prevent the loss of residential and employment services for hundreds of individuals who otherwise might have seen significant program losses.

The budget challenge for the Governor is immense. In funding disabilities services the Governor's team is challenged by pressures from a variety of policy decisions, including its own decision to close state institutions in favor of integrated community programs, and its responsibility to meet Court Ordered obligations in a variety of settlements including the Ricci, Rolland and Hutchinson cases. While the Administration has made great progress in satisfying Court Orders, Court Monitors will be looking to the FY 12 budget to gauge the adequacy of further compliance.

ADDP Members have asked the Patrick Administration to give its utmost consideration to holding the following safety net programs harmless in the FY 2012 Budget:

Line Item	Program	Program description and potential impact of cuts
5920-2025	DDS Day/Employment Services	This program serves 9,194 people and allows people with disabilities to work and earn money. Cutting this program will take away the livelihood of people with disabilities and leave them with no meaningful day activity.
5920-3000	DDS Respite and Family Support	This cost-effective program serves nearly 11,000 people and their families. Through in-home supports, it keeps families intact and saves the state millions of dollars that otherwise would be spent on out-of-home placements.
5920-2000	DDS Community Residential	This program provides homes to 10,466 who live in group homes or supported housing. Without this service, individuals face homelessness or being returned to elderly parents unable to care for their loved ones within their own home.
5920-3010	DDS Autism Services	This program currently serves 130 people, and is desperately needed as the number of children and adults with autism continues to skyrocket.
4000-0300	MassHealth Day Habilitation	This program serves 7,616 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and 1,000 individuals with brain injury, mental health conditions, and/or other disabilities.
4000-0300	MassHealth Personal Care Attendant	18,000 individuals with disabilities receive in-home assistance to remain in the community. Without it, individuals would be at-risk or moved to institutional settings.
7061-0012	DESE/DDS Family Preservation Support	This program serves more than 350 families, with 193 families on the waiting list. Similar to the Family Support line item, this program is cost-effective, and focuses exclusively on keeping children enrolled in their local school system.
4120-3000	MRC Extended Employment	This program provides minimal, cost-efficient supports to keep 460 people with disabilities working in the community. Without it, participants will lose jobs, income, and connections.
4120-6000	MRC Statewide Head Injury Program	Programs in this line item provide critical support services to 100 individuals with traumatic brain injury who require specialized residential and therapeutic services.

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE IN LINE TO RECEIVE AT LEAST \$150 MIL IN NEW MEDICAID FUNDS

Gary's Note: ADDP will be eager to learn if this additional federal revenue will help reduce the stress on the FY 11 and FY 12 Mass Health budget.

Massachusetts is due to receive at least \$150 million in federal funds that will help trigger the release of \$486 million in new Medicaid funds to hospitals that serve disproportionate shares of low-income and uninsured patients, according to an aide briefed on the state's federal Medicaid waiver processes. An official announcement is expected later Thursday but the added funds are expected to provide state matches and free up the flow of funding to Boston Medical Center and hospitals in Brockton, Dorchester, Lawrence, Holyoke and Springfield. Cambridge Hospital has already received about half of the \$486 million in funds approved last October by federal government health care administrators. The payments stem from the state's application last March for amendments to its Medicaid waiver with the federal government. 12:27 P.M.

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