

**From The Arc of Mass – FY 2011 Budget Update:**

**The release of the Senate Ways & Means Committee budget May 19 was terribly disappointing. The numbers of people who would be impacted under this budget say it all ([Go to Arc's budget chart for all the details](#)):**

- **20 homes** would have to be closed by DDS, causing **80 individuals** to lose their place of residence;
- **740 individuals** would be denied employment/day services at DDS and MRC;
- **180 high school graduates** would be without the Turning 22 services they need to transfer successfully from school life to adult life;
- **750 families** would lose critical family support services that helps keep families together and save the state money in the long run;
- **200 families** would lose DESE-DDS services that help families keep their children at home and in-tact instead of them having to go to costly residential schools.
- **80 individuals** would lose transportation services vital for traveling to employment programs, doctors' offices and the like;
- **95 individuals** would lose brain injury services through MRC.

Despite working with revenue projections \$53 million higher than House budget planners, the SWM still cut deeply into essential disability services, including **day/employment, family support, DESE-DDS, and transportation** services to thousands of people with disabilities and their families.

Several other accounts - such as those that fund a **Mass. Rehab Commission Extended Employment program** that helps people work in the community and the **Department of Developmental Services' Turning 22 program** that helps people with disabilities make the difficult transition from school life to the adult/work life - failed to receive the additional funds they so badly need to maintain current levels.

Even in the case of line items that received more funds than the House appropriated, the news was not all positive. The Senate Committee, for example, put approximately \$5 million more into **Community Residential services**, but left it more than \$6 million short of level-funding. This would mean that approximately 80 individuals would lose their homes. Similarly, the Department's Administration account was restored to the Governor's recommendations, but no further.

"We recognize that the state has yet to fully emerge from under the cloud of the Great Recession," said **Leo V. Sarkissian**. "But given the improved financial outlook, further erosion of services is unsustainable for the 33,000 individuals with disabilities and their families who are receiving support and assistance from the state."