

Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

Fiscal Year 2006 Legislative Focus

The following goals constitute MFOFC's legislative focus for the 2005-2006 year:

- ❖ **Supporting the expansion of resources available for students turning 22 who are in need of adult services.** Young people with disabilities who are turning 22 today are in a unique position in history. They represent a generation who have grown up in their communities, have lived with their families, have developed relationships with other children and community members. Many of these young people have been active in their communities and have had work experience. Some are looking forward to continuing their education in some form. Our state system of services is also in a unique position in history. There is an opportunity to capitalize on the education and experience of these young people. *We need to provide sufficient Turning 22 funding to increase creative options and choices for meaningful lives.*
- ❖ **Supporting the preservation and expansion of flexible Family Support services across the disability community.** Most people with disabilities in Massachusetts are cared for at home by their families who need flexible supports designed to supplement their natural ability to provide this care. Family support is a proven and cost-effective service that dramatically undercuts the potential costs to the state for out-of-home placement. Family support services currently represent a tiny percentage of EOHHS funding and are not broadly available across the disability spectrum. *We need to expand funding for flexible family support services and make funds available to more families in the Commonwealth.*
- ❖ **Supporting the preservation and expansion of the DMR/DOE project.** This very successful effort to prevent residential placement has allowed families the support they need to continue to raise their sons and daughters at home and has also supported families to have their sons and daughters return home from residential placements to be educated in their local school systems. *We need to expand this successful collaboration and support individuals in their homes and communities.*

Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC) is a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities and their families. We believe that supports for individuals and their families can be more responsive, more comprehensive, more flexible and better designed to meet the actual needs people have.

Contact us at (800) 406-3632 or email at mfofc@comcast.net
Web www.mfofc.org