



## **DDA Transitioning Youth Funding**

### **Summary:**

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Transitioning Youth funds are for young adults with significant developmental disabilities who exit school at the age of 21 years and require post-secondary day and employment services to maintain skills and assist their integration into the work world. In FY 2017, a projected 600 students with developmental disabilities will exit Maryland schools in need of day/employment supports. The Governor's Proposed FY 2017 DDA Budget provides full funding to serve these youth at \$8,877,897.

Funding for Transitioning Youth ensures students with developmental disabilities do not regress after completing their public education schooling. Prior to 1989, when the program began, these young adults typically sat at home with nothing to do, losing skills invested through the educational system. Often a parent had to give up employment to stay at home with their young adult. Neither option makes sense at a time when Maryland aims for stronger work incentives and greater employment for persons with disabilities.

### **Recommendations:**

We urge support of the Governor's FY 2017 DDA Budget that provides about \$8.9 million for day/employment services to the 600 students with developmental disabilities who will exit school in FY 2017

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### **MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION**

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