



**BREAKING NEWS ABOUT THE FY 17 BUDGET**  
**I/DD Highlights of Governor Hogan's Budget Released Yesterday**  
**We still need your voices for Waiting List funding!**

Yesterday, Governor Larry Hogan released the FY 2017 Budget. While there was good news for several programs related to intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), we still need to fight for funding for more families on the Waiting List.

"Governor Hogan's FY 17 Budget helps stabilize a community system where people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, like my daughters, rely upon competent direct support workers for their basic needs. The Arc Maryland commends the Governor for his support of full community life that provides people with disabilities opportunities to thrive, work and contribute," said Richard Dean, president of The Arc Maryland.

The total budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is \$1.1 billion - this is a six percent (\$71 million) increase over FY 2016's budget. The FY 17 budget includes:

- \$35.7 million to fully fund the Minimum Wage Increase for providers of services - a 3.5% rate increase
- Just under \$8.9 million to fully fund Transitioning Youth (602 people)
- About \$6.67 million for Emergency Placements (projected to serve 161 people in residential, day, supported employment, personal services and individual support services)
- Just under \$5.50 million for the Crisis Resolution Waiting List (projected to support 113 people in residential, day, supported employment, personal services, and individual support services)
- \$5,324,500 for LISS (Low Intensity Support Services)
- \$727,770 from the Waiting List Equity Fund (projected to serve 24 people on the Waiting List based on oldest caregiver first)

"While approximately 8,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities remain on the DDA Waiting List, the Governor's budget brings hope to those on the Waiting List in the most dire situations," said Cristine Marchand, executive director of The Arc Maryland. "Statewide, there is a collective sigh of relief among 600 youth who will be exiting special education this year - as their families waited anxiously for news if there would be funding for post-secondary services such as employment and habilitative services. There remain great needs as families strive to juggle multiple demands while doing the best for their sons and daughters. Members and leaders of the Maryland General Assembly have championed these causes and we look forward to working with them to protect these funds and make this budget a reality for more than 26,000 people with I/DD."

As The Arc Maryland receives additional information about specific I/DD budget items, we will share them.

"Our work is not finished for this legislative session and we urge everyone to attend DD Day at the Legislature on [Wednesday, February 10](#), to thank the Governor and make your voices heard about our programs that still need critical funding," said Cristine. "The Arc Maryland is asking families in all categories of need on the Waiting List to share their story with a photo to give to legislators as part of our outreach campaign to the Governor and legislative budget committees. While we are relieved with the funding provided so far, there are still many unmet needs and a long way to go for too many Maryland families."

To register for DD Day, click [here](#). Registration is required and is due by February 4. For any questions, please contact Linda Brown at 410-571-9320 or [lbrown@thearcmd.org](mailto:lbrown@thearcmd.org). If you would like to share your Waiting List story, but cannot attend DD Day on February 10, please email your story to Linda Brown at [lbrown@thearcmd.org](mailto:lbrown@thearcmd.org).