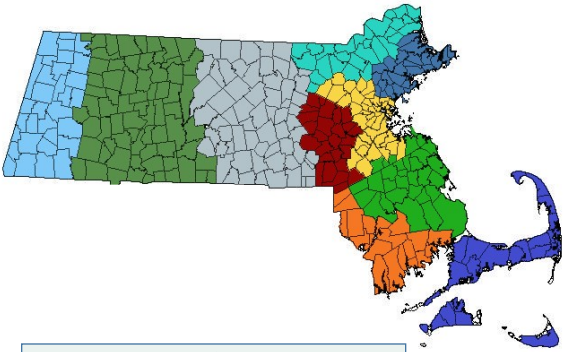


FY' 2022 State Budget Item 4120-0200



\$8 Million
for
10 Independent Living Centers
(Increase \$1,052,545)

- Massachusetts Independent Living Centers**
- Ad-Lib, Inc.**
Pittsfield
 - Boston Center for Independent Living**
Boston
 - Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled**
Hyannis
 - Center for Living and Working, Inc.**
Worcester
 - Disability Resource Center**
Salem
 - Independence Associates, Inc.**
East Bridgewater
 - MetroWest Center for Independent Living**
Framingham
 - Northeast Independent Living Program**
Lawrence and Lowell
 - Southeast Center for Independent Living**
Fall River
 - STAVROS**
Amherst and Springfield

Massachusetts IL Centers need more state funding in order to meet increasing demands for services. We have met many of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and predict that the need for services will skyrocket once in-person contact returns.

- **Nursing Home Transitions**—Covid-19 has brought the horrors of nursing homes into the daylight. We will save the state money, save lives and improve quality of lives by assisting nursing home residents to return to their community.
- **Increased Poverty**—People with disabilities are more commonly low-income than other groups, and the pandemic has exacerbated their employment opportunities. More than ever, they need IL knowledge and resources to be able to stay in their homes independently.
- **Increased Mental Illness**—The pandemic has also exacerbated depression and other mental health issues at the same time that treatment and services have been reduced. We expect that it will take a while for this back log to improve.
- **Students**, especially those in special education, could lose a year of advancement in their educations. Many will never recover, and may need more IL services as adults.
- **Outreach** has been the biggest challenge during the pandemic. IL Centers will need to play catch-up. Outreach will need more funding to find those people who have fallen through the cracks.
- **Aging**—As “baby boomers” continue to age, they will acquire more disabilities.

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