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News Flash on MA FY 2013 Budget

February 10,
2012

MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Greetings!

Governor Patrick has released his initial [Budget for FY 2013](#). Both the House and Senate will each take a turn at modifying this budget, and then the two legislative branches will work together and create another version. This combined version goes back to Governor Patrick who then has to approve it before it's *really* final - typically July 1.

We will keep you informed as the process moves along so that you can share your concerns and thoughts with your legislators. Even if you have no complaints, legislators need to keep hearing exactly which services and programs are important to their constituents.

from Paul Spooner, Executive Director

Budget News for FY 2013

MWCIL has concerns about the following items in the budget:

MA Rehabilitation Commission: Overall the budget for MRC is decreased about \$745,000 from FY 2012.

Line Item 4120-4010 - Turning 22 - shows a decrease of \$371,920, in spite of increases in the number of individuals who need this service.

Line Item 4120-4000 - Independent Living is level funded. The eleven Independent Living Centers across MA are requesting an additional \$1,100,000 (\$100,000 per center) to account for increased costs and to allow each center to get more individuals out of nursing homes.

MA Commission for the Blind: Overall the budget for MCB is decreased about \$8,369,000. While most of this reduction (4110-1010) appears to have moved to a different budget (i.e. not necessarily all reduced services), we are particularly concerned about the status of services for individuals who are deaf and blind.

Line Item 4110-1000 - Community Services for the Blind is reduced by \$478,171.

The Deaf Blind Community Access Network was cut completely from the Governor's FY 2013 Budget. In FY 2012, the DBCAN budget was \$350,000 which supports 16 hours/month for 70 people who are both deaf and blind. The budget pays for Service Support Providers to accompany people to doctor visits,



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Phone: 508-875-7853
280 Irving Street
Framingham, MA 01702

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shopping, church, social events, to read their mail, and to provide other services needed to live in the community.

If you need to find who your representatives and senator are and what their contact information is, you can visit the state website: wheredoivotema.com. This site is temporarily down for maintenance, but we hope it will be back up very soon.

Transition Legislation

The Massachusetts Senate just passed [new legislation](#) to improve transition services for students aged 14 - 22, who are in special education. At age 22, students are no longer eligible for services from school systems, and these new transition services and standards will improve student readiness for the "real world".

Reminder to MetroWest Transit Riders

The [Transit Hearing for MetroWest](#) will be next Tuesday, February 14 from 6:00-8:00 at Framingham Town Hall.

Download a [summary of the proposed changes](#) for more info.

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