



Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and UMass Down Syndrome Clinic Line Items **Fact Sheet**

DDS Line Item: 5920-3000

For respite services and intensive family supports \$63,779,097

The Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress appreciates the continued support of the Governor and the Legislature for this DDS level-funded budget line item that makes it possible for our loved ones with Down syndrome and their families to continue to have the support services they need.

Families readily take on their responsibilities as caretakers and require relatively small amounts of support to help them continue, but they often require a comprehensive system of supports that they can rely on for help across the lifespan of their family member. Those services include skills training, fostering friendships, socialization and recreational opportunities, planning for the future, and community education and development.

Family support should be highly regarded as a service that is essential to families and not viewed as an ancillary or secondary support. It is as critical to the system of supports as any other service and is the most cost-effective service provided.

UMass Medical Center Down Syndrome Clinic

We are again requesting \$150,000 funding for the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center's Down Syndrome Clinic in Worcester. This clinic is critically important to our families living in Central and Western, MA. Support line item 4510-3010: "For a grant to the UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center Massachusetts Down Syndrome Clinic based on the patient centered medical home concept.\$150,000".

Your support for these line items will truly make a difference to 5,000 people with Down syndrome living in MA. Thank you!

MDSC Mission Statement

To ensure individuals with Down syndrome in Massachusetts are valued, included, and given the opportunities to pursue fulfilling lives by providing information, networking opportunities, and advocacy for people with Down syndrome and their families, educators, health care professionals, and the community-at-large.