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Commissioner

# **Report on the DDS Turning 22 Program**

**April 2021**



## FY21 DDS Turning 22 Legislative Report

Line item 5920-5000 language for the Department of Developmental Services (“DDS” or “the Department”) included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 General Appropriation Act requires the department to: *report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the use of any funds encumbered or expended from this item including, but not limited to, the number of clients served in each region and the types of services purchased in each region.*

Chapter 688, better known as the Turning 22 Program, was enacted in 1984 to provide a planning process for young adults with severe disabilities as they leave special education and transition into the adult service system. Each year, DDS transitions hundreds of young people into the Department’s adult service system. One of the Department’s most significant challenges is to continually meet the needs of these young people coming to DDS from special education programs when their school entitlement services end.

In FY17, the Baker-Polito Administration successfully filed a \$10.8 million supplemental appropriation to ensure all Turning 22 class members receive necessary services. In FY18, the Baker-Polito Administration proposed to fully fund the entire Turning 22 class in the Governor’s budget, providing service funding for every DDS young adult leaving special education, including those with autism. In FY19, FY20 and FY21, the Baker-Polito Administration again requested funding to fully fund the program at \$25 million. The Administration has also requested full funding for the Turning 22 Program in its FY22 budget proposal.

Figure 1 displays the number of individuals leaving special education and entering DDS services since FY1999. As noted below, there have been steady increases in the number of class members each year. In addition, the Department is experiencing a higher number of individuals with complex clinical profiles, who have intensive support needs due to medical or behavioral challenges.

For FY21, DDS has identified 1,233 young people eligible for Turning 22 services. Line-item 5920-5000, the Turning 22 account, provides funding to serve 263 young people identified as needing some Community Based Residential Supports over the course of this fiscal year. As well as appropriate vocational and transportation services.

**Figure 1**  
**DDS Turning 22 Census by Fiscal Year**

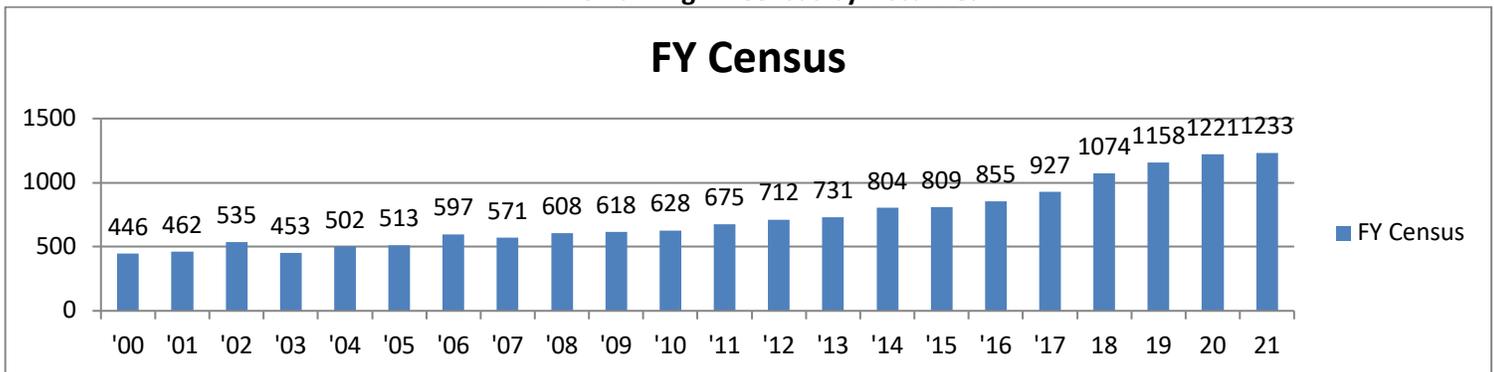


Figure 2 displays the type of service purchased for the cohort of 1,221 students who entered the DDS system during FY20, including students with autism without intellectual disability.

**Figure 2**  
**Legislative Annual Appropriation for the FY20 Class**

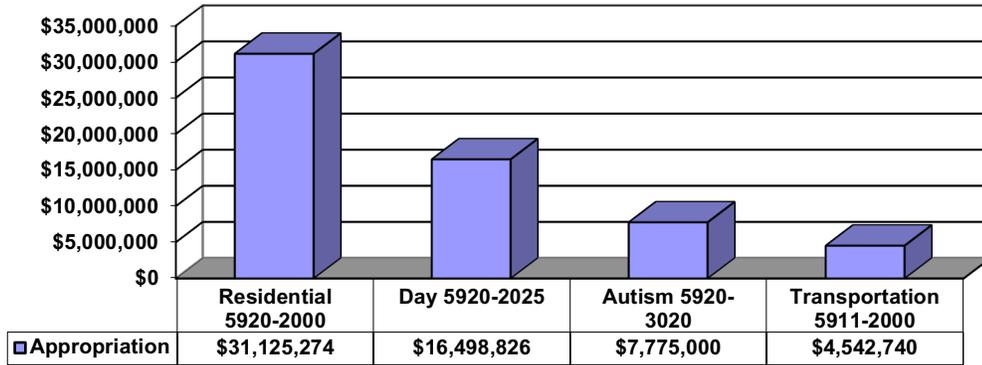
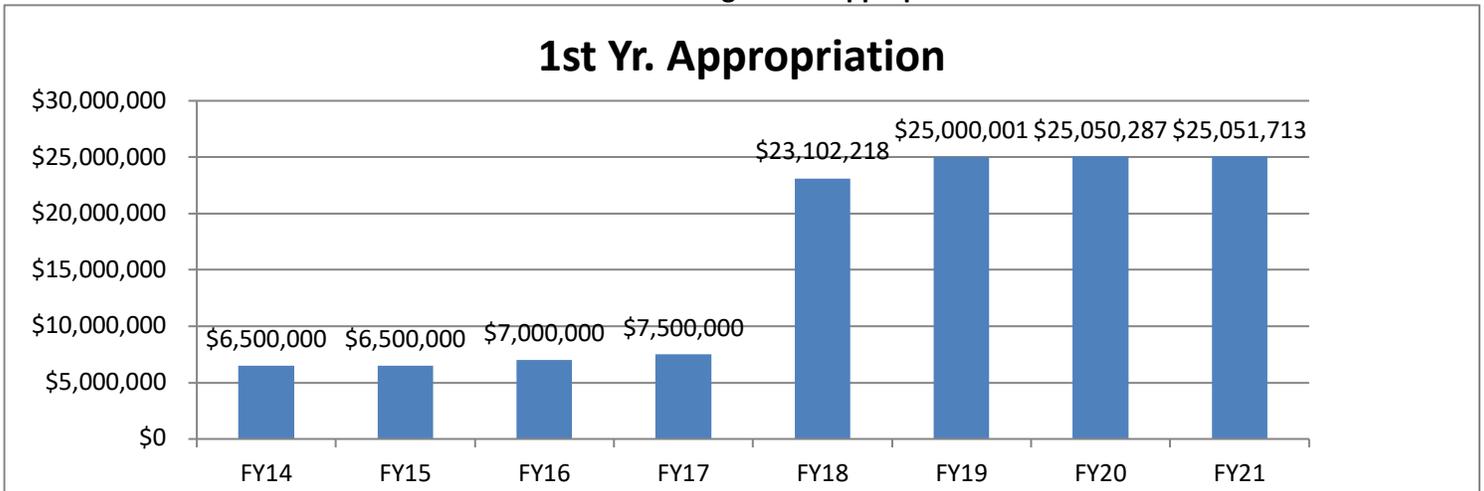


Figure 3 displays appropriations for the Turning 22 program from FY13-FY21. The FY21 appropriation for line-item 5920-5000 is over \$25 million.

**Figure 3**  
**5920-5000 Legislative Appropriation**



*\*Please note: an additional \$10.8 million supplemental appropriation was provided in FY17.*

Figure 4 displays the number of those FY21 Turning 22 individuals receiving Community Based Residential Services (CBRS) by DDS region.

**Figure 4  
Individuals Receiving CBRS Services by Region**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>Central/West</b>	<b>Metro Boston</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Southeast</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Individuals</b>	78	61	66	58	<b>263</b>

Figure 5 displays the number of FY21 Turning 22 students who live at home with families and require day and/or employment and transportation services by DDS region.

**Figure 5  
Individuals Receiving Day/Employment or Transportation Services by Region**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>Central/West</b>	<b>Metro Boston</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Southeast</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Individuals</b>	354	193	219	204	970