



Last night, Governor Christie signed a \$34.5 billion State Budget that **includes \$79 million in growth to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in New Jersey**. This represents a big commitment by the State in support of community living and of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Before we break down some of the specifics, we want to take this opportunity to thank **YOU!** We appreciate your support of our advocacy efforts and for all you do throughout the year for people with I/DD. Whether it was sending a Holiday Card to the Governor or responding to our action alerts, we know we can count on you to take our message to legislators and decision-makers. Given the large number of fiscal challenges facing the State, we believe this Budget recognizes the needs of people with I/DD and their families and the supports and services they require. Thank you again for all your help!

Budget Details:

The final FY17 Budget includes an increase in the number of housing vouchers as well as funding to address the Waiting List. These were both high-priority items in The Arc of New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget campaign. The Budget also includes monies to assist people moving out of developmental centers, to address the needs of students as they age out of their educational entitlement, and to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the FY17 Budget

includes funding for community providers as they transition to fee-for-service. Overall, the State Budget is very much in-line with our top advocacy areas. Unfortunately, a line item of \$20 million added by the Legislature for direct support professionals was vetoed by the Governor.

A breakdown of the \$79 million is as follows:

- \$10 million for the Waiting List.
- \$5 million for 500 new housing vouchers.
- \$13.2 million for Olmstead.
- \$10 million in transition money to assist providers as they move into fee-for-service.
- \$41 million for general growth which includes things like students aging out of school, etc.

Thank you again for all your advocacy. It is only with your help and support we can accomplish our goals. If you know anyone who would like to join our efforts, please forward this alert to them and encourage them to join our [Families' and Friends' Networks](#).

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