

Subject: DHS- DDS Day Support and Employment Services Programs

**FY 2022 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/13/2021

The following information is provided in response to a request regarding the following question:

Please provide an update on a comprehensive needs assessment and review of the Developmental Disabilities Services' (DDS) day support and employment services programs.

In FY 2022, the Department of Human Services - Developmental Disabilities Services Bureau will restart its efforts to complete a comprehensive needs assessment and review of the Developmental Disabilities Services' (DDS) day support and employment services programs. In recent years, Arlington Public Schools (APS) has experienced steady increases in the number of students with developmental disabilities aging out of special education services and projects similar increases in the coming years. There is limited capacity for employment and day support services in Arlington, as our two County programs – the Community Integration Center (CIC) and ArlingtonWeaves – routinely operate at or near capacity. As a result, many individuals with developmental disabilities receive day support and employment services through non-County programs that are operated in Fairfax County as far out as Oakton and Chantilly. These non-County programs are highly competitive.

The comprehensive needs assessment will address service delivery for individuals with developmental disabilities and include identification and evaluation of existing day support and employment programs in Arlington County, Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and other states. The deliverable will be recommendations for best practices, new and innovative services, new service model designs, and funding options.

Supplemental Information

In response to the increased rate of students with developmental disabilities exiting special education services, staff, in FY 2019, began examining the existing DDS budget for reallocation of funds to expand employment services and develop a new day support program in Arlington County. One option to shift 77 individuals with DD Medicaid Waivers away from local funded transportation routes to Logisticare* (Medicaid) would net a cost savings of \$930,000 in the DHS/DDS budget. Individuals with DD Medicaid Waivers are eligible for state-funded (Medicaid) transportations services.

The County's transportation contract (Diamond) would be amended from 13 routes to five routes; only individuals receiving locally funded day support services would receive

*Logisticare is a contracted transportation provider under the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services/DMAS

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transportation. DHS is evaluating transportation services for persons with developmental disabilities for service quality, customer impacts, and cost efficiency and have begun discussions with the CSB's Developmental Disabilities Committee.