

**MetroWest  
Center For  
Independent Living**

# People with Disabilities Living in the Community

March 2015



We hope to see everyone at IL Education Day at the State House on March 24! This event is more important than ever with a new administration. Most of our legislators are the same, but as usual, it's another challenging budget year with a new administration. This event is our opportunity to let them know how important Independent Living services are to Massachusetts residents.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director  
MetroWest Center for Independent Living

## Independent Living Education Day At the State House

Please join us at the State House as we educate and advocate for Independent Living funding.

[IL Day Facebook Event Page](#)  
[Download the flyer](#)



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### MWCIL



MetroWest Center  
for Independent  
Living

Website: [www.mwcil.org](http://www.mwcil.org)

Email: [info@mwcil.org](mailto:info@mwcil.org)

Phone: (508)875-7853

When:

Tuesday, March 24, 11:00 - 3:00

Where:

Grand Staircase  
State House

Call your legislators today and set a time to visit with them in their offices between 1:00 and 3:00 pm while you are at the State House. Invite them to join us for lunch and the presentations.

To learn about our 2015 priorities, go to <http://www.masilc.org/legislation>. We're fighting for affordable housing, architectural access, jobs, and assistive technology!


A bagged lunch will be provided to all participants. This event is supported by the SILC Public Education and Information Committee, Massachusetts 11 Independent Living Centers, MRC State Rehab Council.



## PCA Advocacy Day at the State House

We had a great turnout at PCA Advocacy Day on February 27. The speakers included Bill Henning (BCIL), Rebecca Gutman (1199SEIU), a PCA, Suzanne Bump (State Auditor) and Paul Spooner. We then broke out and visited legislators. All of the legislators and staff members we spoke with were very interested. After all, living at home, even with services, saves the state money. Nursing homes are much more expensive!

Address: 280 Irving  
Street  
Framingham, MA 02702

Facebook: 

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Visit our [Photo Page](#) for more pictures from the event.

## House 1 By the Numbers

Thanks to John Winske and Bill Allan at the Disability Policy Consortium for this summary of disability line items in the governor's budget. Note that the first column is the approved budget for this year, and the middle column is the actual amount after the mid-year 9C cuts. Independent Living Centers are requesting that FY 16 Funding for 4120-4000 be at the approved FY 15 level, before the 9C cuts.

All numbers are in the thousands (,000) and rounded off.

		FY 15 Apr.	FY15 Final	FY16 (HS1)
4110-0001	Administration and Program Operations	1,382	1,357	1,486
4110-1000	Community Services for the Blind	4,070	4,116	4,205
4110-2000	Turning 22 Program and Services	13,010	12,826	13,167
4110-3010	Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind	3,353	3,278	3,008
	Total MCB	21,815	21,577	21,866
4120-0200	Independent Living Centers	5,630	5,546	5,546
4120-1000	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	420	419	431
4120-2000	Vocational Rehabilitation for the Disabled	10,520	10,219	10,219
4120-3000	Employment Assistance	2,247	2,247	2,247
4120-4000	Independent Living Assistance for the Multi Disabled	8,833	8,226	8,778
4120-4001	Accessible Housing Placement and Registry for Disabled Persons	80	80	0
4120-4005	Living Independently for Equality	30	0	0
4120-4010	Turning 22 Program and Services	796	646	646
4120-5000	Home Care Services for the Multi Disabled	4,281	4,306	4,306
4120-6000	Head Injury Treatment Services	15,169	14,659	14,659
	Total MRC	48,006	46,348	46,832

4125-0100	Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	5,781	5,582	5,645
4125-0122	Chargeback for Interpreter Services	250	250	250
	Total MCDHH	6,031	5,832	5,895
5011-0100	Department of Mental Health Administration and Operations	28,098	28,048	28,720
5042-5000	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	87,567	80,421	80,421
5046-0000	Adult Mental Health and Support Services	360,697	352,977	370,816
5046-0005	Adult Community Based Placements	10,000	10,000	0
5046-2000	Statewide Homelessness Support Services	20,135	20,135	22,135
5046-4000	CHOICE Program Retained Revenue	125	125	125
5047-0001	Emergency Services and Mental Health Care	36,416	31,403	24,258
5055-0000	Forensic Services Program for Mentally Ill Persons	8,879	8,879	9,183
5095-0015	Inpatient Facilities and Community Based Mental Health	183,884	182,774	191,467
5095-1016	Occupancy Fees Retained Revenue	500	500	500
	Total DMH	736,301	715,262	727,625
5911-	DDS Service Coordination			



1003	and Administration	65,690	65,414	69,919
5911-2000	Transportation Services	15,907	15,907	18,996
5920-2000	Community Residential Services for Developmentally Disabled	1,006,339	1,051,025	1,084,667
5920-2010	State Operated Residential Services	206,310	209,614	214,737
5920-2025	Community Day and Work Programs	173,663	173,475	173,510
5920-2026	Community Based Employment	1,000	1,000	5,049
5920-3000	Respite Family Supports for the Developmentally Disabled	54,934	57,902	59,802
5920-3010	Autism Division	57,902	5,621	5,585
5920-5000	Turning 22 Program and Services	5,621	6,500	6,500
5930-1000	State Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled	6,500	112,467	112,092
5948-0012	Chargeback for Special Education Alternatives	107,481	6,500	6,500
5982-1000	Templeton Farm Product Sales Retained Revenue	150	150	0
	Total DDS	1,701,497	1,705,575	1,757,357

## Federal Rental Assistance for People with Disabilities

Massachusetts is one of 25 states receiving a portion of \$150 million to provide rental assistance for people with disabilities, including people transitioning out of nursing homes. The money is expected to support 4600 households.

The Massachusetts share is \$6,803,050 and will help 100 households.

The money is being made available through HUD's Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program. State housing agencies must partner with local Medicaid and health and human services agencies.

[Disability Scoop](#) has more information on these new federal funds.

## Goodbye from Commissioner Carr

March 6, 2015

Dear friends,

Today is my last day as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. I am stepping down feeling a huge sense of pride and accomplishment; my team and I have created many positive changes that will impact the agency for years to come. We literally flipped the paradigm so that MRC is not just a "VR" agency but an organization that is committed to community living from financial stabilization to community living and onto employment. These are the things MRC does best and, with your input and support, we are a better agency for it.

We have a long way to go but MRC is poised to grow and strengthen to truly meet the needs of the disability community. It has my distinct honor and privilege to have served as Commissioner and I have nothing but best wishes for the incoming Commissioner. I hope you'll support them as you did me.

Kind regards,

Charlie Carr



Commissioner Carr is a true advocate for Independent Living, and we will miss him in his role as Commissioner of MRC. We're looking forward to learning about his next gig, and seeing him at advocacy events. *Thank you to Commissioner Carr!*

## Employing People with Disabilities Toolkit

The White House Domestic Policy Council and the Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative hosted the White House Summit on Disability and Employment. The Summit provided businesses, philanthropies, and disability advocates with information about new and existing Federal resources designed to help employers hire more individuals with disabilities, including the new [Resource Guide for Employers](#). The Summit also offered opportunities for attendees to share their experiences in diversifying their workforce through effective strategies to successfully recruit, hire, promote, and retain employees with disabilities.

This resource guide is the best publication we've seen on all aspects of hiring and retaining people with disabilities. It contains ideas, compliance with laws, accommodations, and more. The positive, pro-active tone is matched with comprehensive and practical information and resources on *all* aspects of employing people with disabilities. The guide should be read by everyone for more insights into the subject.

[Recruiting, Hiring, Retaining and Promoting People with Disabilities: A Resource Guide for Employers](#)

[Curb Cuts Initiative Website](#)



[White House Blog on the Summit](#)

Thanks to [Massachusetts Network of Information Providers](#) for this information.

## Beeping Egg Hunt

No it is not a typo, and is not a "bleeping" egg hunt! The MA Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired ([MAPVI](#)) and the [Perkins School](#) are hosting a (free) Beeping Egg Hunt.

Meet at the Grousbeck Center on the Perkins campus in Watertown for snacks and crafts then walk over to the playground for our egg hunt. An indoor alternative is available if there is still snow on the ground.

There will be prizes for the children who find the special glitter eggs and goody bags for all participants. There is a special accessible area for children in strollers or wheelchairs.

### ***BYOB - BRING YOUR OWN BASKET***

When:

Saturday, March 28 at 10:30

Where:

Grousbeck Center  
Perkins School  
175 North Beacon Street  
Watertown

RSVP:

[Click Here](#)

Contact:

Amber Bobnar at (617)923-1241 or  
[amber@wonderbaby.org](mailto:amber@wonderbaby.org)

## Emergency Preparedness

Visit the [MWCIL Emergency Preparedness webpage](#) for resources on how to plan for an emergency.

Download this [document from the Red Cross](#) to help make your plans.

## Got News?

Send us your ideas!

This monthly section is for news and comments from our readers. You can suggest something for us to research, give your opinion on a topic

(relevant to people with disabilities of course), or let us know of what is working and what needs improvement in the community. Please email Sue at [srorke@mwcil.org](mailto:srorke@mwcil.org). Thanks!

[www.mwcil.org](http://www.mwcil.org)

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