



**Massachusetts  
Department of Developmental Services  
(DDS)**

**An Overview of  
Transition**

**April 25, 2019**



## Turning 22 & Chapter 688

Chapter 688 (also known as the "Turning 22" law) was enacted in 1983 to provide a two-year planning process for young adults that creates a single point of entry into the adult human service system.



## Who makes a 688 Referral

688 referrals **can only be generated from the student's school system** and made to an adult service agency as the transitional agency. While more than one agency, such as DDS, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Department of Mental Health, or Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, can be involved in the planning, only one agency will serve as the lead. The school system will help determine the transitional agency. **There should be only one 688 referral per individual.**



## 688 Referrals

- A 688 referral guarantees:
  - A transitional agency
  - An ITP (Individualized Transition Plan)
- A 688 referral does not guarantee services.
- All DDS services are based on available funding.



## 688 Referrals

- Through the 688 process, students begin working with DDS before exiting school on a timeline that allows for sufficient planning to support a smooth transition to adult supports.
- By specifying an individual's needs before exiting special education, the individual, family, and DDS can plan together.



# When should the 688 Referral be made?

The Chapter 688 law requires for referrals to be made at least 2 years before the student is expected to graduate from school or turns 22.



# DDS Adult Eligibility

In order to provide maximum planning time for adult services, it is best to begin the adult eligibility process around age 17.5

If a person is child eligible, they still need to complete the adult eligibility process; the criteria are different.

DDS eligibility and 688 eligibility are different processes, individuals need to go through both.



# DDS Adult Eligibility

Individuals can be determined eligible for adult services through DDS if they have significant limitations in adaptive functioning and one or more of the following diagnoses:

- Intellectual Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Smith-Magenis Syndrome





**DDS Metro Region Office**  
**Where to Apply:**

**DDS Metro Region**  
**465 Waverley Oaks Road**  
**Suite 120**  
**Waltham, MA 02452**  
**Intake Line:**  
**(781) 314-7513**



## Eligibility Notes

If a person is child eligible, they still need to complete the adult eligibility process, as the criteria are different.

# What is an ITP?

## The Individual Transition Plan

- The purpose of an ITP meeting is to develop a plan that includes the interests, skills and needs of the person.
- The ITP is the document that specifies what kinds of support the student needs upon leaving special education.
- The ITP does not contain specific goals and objectives, or identify specific provider agencies. The ITP functions as more of a “blueprint” of the student’s requested support needs.
- Supports identified in the ITP are not guaranteed or create an entitlement; they are subject to prioritization, appropriation and availability.



# ITP

## Individual Transition Plan

- Conducted by the Transition Coordinator
- The ITP does not need to be a separate meeting and often occurs during the IEP meeting since all parties of interest are already gathered.
- Ideally scheduled for 12-18 months prior to leaving school
- Student, family/guardian, school staff, and others who know the student well, are included
- Staff from other state agencies may be invited
- The ITP part of the meeting may take place during an IEP meeting while the team is already assembled.
- Services are subject to appropriation, availability, and prioritization
- There is only one ITP, and only one ITP meeting per individual



# DDS Service Delivery Models

**Traditional Services**

**Agency With Choice** (Self Directed Model)

**Participant Directed Program** (Self Directed Model)



# Self Direction

- Is a way of providing supports to individuals that promotes personal choice and control. Individuals and/or families decide who provides those supports and how they are delivered
- Gives people the opportunity to use their allotted DDS budget to purchase supports and services that meet their needs and goals
- Enables individuals to be more engaged in managing their own services. Participants feel empowered and in charge of their lives



# Self Directed Models

## **Agency with Choice (AWC)**

Enables individuals and families to share responsibilities with a qualified Provider. The individual/family is responsible for selecting their employees, setting work hours, and managing the day to day service delivery. Evaluation and training is shared between the Agency and the individual. The Agency employs and pays the worker, assumes payroll, withholdings, taxes and workers compensation responsibilities.

## **Participant Directed Program (PDP)**

Offers the individual/family the most flexibility to arrange and customize their supports based on the individual's needs and preferences. The individual can hire their own support staff, design their schedule and make other decisions about how to use their DDS funded allocation.



# Upcoming Metro Region Self-Direction Information Sessions

**May 15, 2019**

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

DDS Metro Region Office  
465 Waverley Oaks Rd Suite 120  
Waltham, MA 02452

**August 21, 2019**

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

DDS Metro Region Office  
465 Waverley Oaks Rd Suite 120  
Waltham, MA 02452

RSVP to:

**Betsy Eaton-Irwin**

Regional Self Directed Supports Manager  
Department of Developmental Services  
Metro Region

465 Waverly Oaks Road, Suite 120  
Waltham, MA 02452

(781) 788-5262

[Betsy.Eaton-Irwin@state.ma.us](mailto:Betsy.Eaton-Irwin@state.ma.us)





# DDS Supports

- Employment Supports
- Community Based Day Supports (CBDS)
- Family Support
- Individual Supports
- Autism Coaching
- Self Direction
- Residential Supports
- Transportation
- Service Coordination



# Greater Boston Family Support Centers

## **Bay Cove**

### **Family Support Center**

66 Canal Street, Boston, MA 02114

(617) 371-3121

Teresa Wilson

[twilson@baycove.org](mailto:twilson@baycove.org)

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

## **Vinfen Corp.**

### **Family Support Center**

1208 C VFW Parkway, Suite 103

West Roxbury, MA 02132

(617) 562-4094

Sethany Griffin

[griffins@vinfen.org](mailto:griffins@vinfen.org)

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

## **Work Inc.**

### **Family Support Center**

25 Beach Street,

Dorchester, MA 02122

617) 691-1601

Tuan Le

[tle@workinc.org](mailto:tle@workinc.org)

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

# Greater Boston Cultural/Linguistic-Specific Family Support Centers

## **Project Able/Advocates**

888 Washington Street Suite 102  
Boston, MA 02111  
(617) 988-8132  
Andy Law

[alaw@advocates.org](mailto:alaw@advocates.org)

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

Chinese and Vietnamese Families

## **Dimock Family Support Center**

55 Dimock Street,  
Roxbury, MA 02119  
(617) 442-8800 ext.1204  
Tom Morris

[tmorris@dimock.org](mailto:tmorris@dimock.org)

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

African American/Multicultural Families

## **HAPHI Haitian Family Support Center**

1603 Blue Hill Avenue  
Mattapan, MA 02126  
(617) 298-8076  
Renald Raphael

[renaldraphael@yahoo.com](mailto:renaldraphael@yahoo.com)

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

Haitian Families

## **Solidaridad/Work Inc.**

25 Beach Street  
Dorchester, MA 02122  
(617) 691-1620  
Rosa Robledo

[rrobledo@workinc.org](mailto:rrobledo@workinc.org)

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

Latin American Families



# Metro Region Autism Support Centers

## **TILL/Autism Support Center**

20 Eastbrook Road  
Dedham, MA 02026

(781) 302-4835

Martine Pierre, Autism Services Coordinator

[Martine.pierre@tillinc.org](mailto:Martine.pierre@tillinc.org)

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

## **The Arc of South Norfolk/ The Family Autism Center**

789 Clapboardtree Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

(781) 762-4001

Brian Clark

[bclark@arcsouthnorfolk.org](mailto:bclark@arcsouthnorfolk.org)

[www.arcsouthnorfolk.org/family-autism-center.html](http://www.arcsouthnorfolk.org/family-autism-center.html)

## **Advocates, Inc./**

## **Autism Alliance of Metrowest**

1881 Worcester Road

Framingham, MA 01701

(508) 652-9900

Pam McKillop & Allison Daigle

[pmckillop@advocates.org](mailto:pmckillop@advocates.org)

[adaigle@advocates.org](mailto:adaigle@advocates.org)

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

# Contact Information

Maria Stefano

Autism Program Coordinator

Department of Developmental Services

Metro Region

465 Waverly Oaks Rd

Waltham, MA 02452

(781)314-7508

[Maria.Stefano@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:Maria.Stefano@MassMail.State.MA.US)

# Helpful Links

## **DDS Eligibility Forms:**

[mass.gov/lists/dds-eligibility-forms](https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-eligibility-forms)

## **Essential DDS Transition Information:**

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/essential-dds-transition-information>

## **DDS Family Support Directory:**

[https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information#dds-family-support-directory-](https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information#dds-family-support-directory)

## **DDS Self-Directed Services**

<https://www.mass.gov/dds-self-directed-services>

## **DDS Northeast Region Adult Autism Resource Guide 2019:**

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/518bb7cde4b0d1e7bd9c37b5/t/5c58694253450a702c533881/1549297988292/DDS+NE+Region\\_2019+Adult+Autism+Resource+Guide\\_Final\\_020419.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/518bb7cde4b0d1e7bd9c37b5/t/5c58694253450a702c533881/1549297988292/DDS+NE+Region_2019+Adult+Autism+Resource+Guide_Final_020419.pdf)

## **Autism Commission:**

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/autism-commission>

## **The Arc of Massachusetts Transition Timeline**

<http://thearcofmass.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Transition-Factsheet-616.pdf>