

# 2024 Legislative Priorities

## Executive Summary

Outlined below are the policy and budget priorities for The Arc Central Chesapeake Region and Chesapeake Neighbors for the 2024 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. They include funding for two Chesapeake Neighbors project on Maryland's Eastern Shore, fully funding all DDA services by FY2026, Transitioning Youth Funding, addressing the DDA Community Services Waiting List, Maryland Department of Health Rate Study, and increased Emergency Situation Funding.

## FY 2025 Capital Budget Request

**Project Descriptions:** These two Chesapeake Neighbors development projects will provide much-needed affordable housing to the Town of Easton, located in Talbot County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Both projects will contribute to the area's local development with the creation of construction jobs and the creation of additional affordable housing options to immediately support local economic development, serve individuals/families in need, and ensure diverse, vibrant, and resilient communities for the future.

Total investment in the projects will be \$1 million. This breaks down to:

Primrose.....\$600K in redevelopment  
August Street.....\$400K in redevelopment

## Legislative Priorities

**Rate Increases:** Asking the Governor to provide a cost-of-living increase to address annual inflation. The Developmental Disabilities Coalition is recommending a statewide 3.5% inflationary rate increase for the FY 2025 budget.

**Fully Fund DDA Services by FY26:** We are asking the Governor to invest funding in the FY 2025 budget to ensure that the new rates for all DDA services are fully funded by FY 2026. The percentage of funding that is needed varies by service, with community living and supported living the lowest at 87% of full funding as of July 2023.

**Maryland Department of Health to Complete Rate Study:** Requesting the MDH administration to complete the rate study and address the shortcomings in the rates for vital meaningful day services, which include employment, day habilitation, and community development services.

**Transitioning Youth Funding:** Asking Governor Moore for The FY2025 appropriation should cover a full year of service for all eligible transitioning youth.

**DDA Community Services Waiting List Funding:** Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver programs like Community Pathways, Community Supports, and Family Supports Waivers provide people with disabilities the support they need and want to live in their communities instead of large, institutional settings. There are long waits (many years) from the date an individual gets on a waiting list for waiver services until they are able to receive services from the state. **We are asking the Governor to include the necessary funding to carry out a plan to address the waiting lists and time it takes to receive services.**

**Emergency Placement Funding:** Funding to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities in emergencies should be included in the FY2025 budget. Many individuals with developmental disabilities are not on the DDA Waiting List because their families either did not know about DDA or chose not to apply because the wait for services was too cumbersome. Once they reach a crisis, they have a dire need for support to prevent or address homelessness, abuse, neglect, or a health emergency.