**MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS**

***Resources provided on this page are for informational purposes only.***

**Advocacy & Rights**

[Arcs](https://thearc.org/)

*Local Arcs provide a variety of support services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. For more information and to connect with your local Arc please click the above link.*

[Disability Law Center](https://www.dlc-ma.org/)

*Provides protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities to fully and equally participate in social and economic opportunities.*

[Federation for Children with Special Needs](https://fcsn.org/)

*Provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities through services such as their website, publication, phone consultation, conferences, and workshops.*

[Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination)

*Works to eliminate discrimination on a variety of bases and areas, including employment, education, housing, credit lenders, mortgages, public accommodations or establishments.*

**Financial Planning**

[Social Security Administration](https://www.ssa.gov/)

*Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to individuals, both children and adults) with disabilities who have limited income and resources. It is recommended once a child turns 17 years of age, information is prepared to apply for SSI. By 18 years of age, the SSI application should be submitted and determination complete.*

***Due to the COVID - 19 pandemic Social Security Offices at this time are closed. Individuals can now file for SSI online. Once the online process is complete a Social Security representative will contact you by telephone or mail for any additional information for the application.***

***Individuals can also schedule an appointment with a local Social Security office to file an application.***

**Guardianship**

[Age of Majority Guide](https://www.bmc.org/sites/default/files/Patient_Care/Specialty_Care/Pediatrics%20-%20Autism/TEAM/Age-of-Majority-Guide.pdf)

*A helpful guide created by the Autism Program at the Boston Medical Center that explores the different adult decision-making supports.*

[Massachusetts Guardianship Association](http://www.massguardianshipassociation.org/)

*Provides information and resources for individuals, family members, and professionals about Guardianship and Conservatorship.*

[Massachusetts Laws about Guardianship and Conservatorship](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-guardians-and-caregivers)

*Provides information of state laws, cases and websites on caregivers, guardianship and conservatorship in Massachusetts*

**Health Care**

[Mass Health and/or Medicaid](https://www.mass.gov/topics/masshealth)

*Provides information about the process of accessing Mass Health and/or Medicaid. Individuals receiving SSI are automatically eligible for MassHealth Standard. Individuals should receive an insurance card in the mail after being accepted for SSI, if not contact MassHealth 1-888-665-9993. Individuals do not need to file a separate application.*

**Person Centered Planning**

[Charting the LifeCourse](https://www.lifecoursetools.com/)

*A free resource created by families with children who have special needs for families with children who have special needs to develop a vision for their child’s best life.*

**State Agencies**

[Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-children-families)

*Provides for young adults between the ages of 18-21 who were previously involved with DCF services.*

[Massachusetts Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services)

*Provides transition to adulthood services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to their communities. These are eligibility-based support services and may include: residential supports, individual supports, day supports, employment supports, family support and/or respite services.*

[Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health)

*Provides access to services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages, enabling them to live, work, and participate in their communities.*

[Massachusetts for the Blind (MCB)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind)

*Provides specialized social and rehabilitative services, as well as medical and financial assistance, to blind individuals.*

[Massachusetts for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing)

*Provides services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; including interpreters, case management and technology services.*

[Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-rehabilitation-commission)

*Provides pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) and transition to adulthood services, including vocational counseling, training and support for adults with disabilities to live and work independently.*