



## New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability

Christopher T. Sununu, Governor  
Paul Van Blarigan, Chair  
Charles J. Saia, Executive Director

To: Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
And Senators of Senate Finance Committee  
New Hampshire State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

From: Charles J. Saia  
Executive Director  
Governor's Commission on Disability

RE: Senate Finance Committee Budget Hearing  
Budget Narrative

Date: April 13, 2021

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The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is statutorily created pursuant to RSA 275-C and is the NH executive branch state agency that serves people with cross-disabilities, advises the Governor, Legislature, and other state agencies regarding disability-related compliance, and primarily provides assistance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability related laws.

As part of the Governor's Office, the GCD is comprised of 18 gubernatorial appointed commission members (the enabling statute allows for up to 30 members), representing persons with a disability or parents or guardians of persons with a disability, members of the general public and organizations which provide services for persons with disabilities. The Commissioners of DHHS, DOE, DOL, DES, the Administrator of Vocational Rehabilitation (DOE), the Supervisor of Blind Services and a member of the State Board of Education are all ex officio, non-voting, members of the Commission.

The GCD's mission is to remove the barriers, which bar people with disabilities from full participation in society. As a primary provider of ADA assistance, the GCD embraces the purpose of the ADA and educates on the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The Commission's motto is *Access for All*. As an integral conduit and disseminator of information to the public, the GCD also comments to the governor and legislature on the adequacy of programs, while advocating for plans/programs regarding individuals with a disability.

## **A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE GCD**

### **Client Assistance Program**

The GCD, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education supervises and operates the Client Assistance Program, which ensures that clients of Vocational Rehabilitation are receiving the best possible services available while also educating and advocating on Title I of the ADA which pertains to employment matters. The FY 2022 and FY 2023 Budget anticipates a federal grant award of \$131,917.00.

### **STABLE NH**

Pursuant to RSA 195-K, the Executive Director of the GCD and the NH State Treasurer are the co-administrators of New Hampshire's ABLE Savings Program (known as STABLE NH), authorized by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience Act. STABLE NH Accounts allow individuals with a disability to save money, tax free, without jeopardizing needs based benefits like Medicaid. STABLE NH is implemented without any state general fund moneys and as of April 4, 2021 has 487 NH accounts, with \$3.3 million in NH assets under management.

### **Committee on Architectural Barrier-Free Design**

Under the umbrella of the GCD is a statutory committee, known as the Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee (ABFDC), which reviews publicly funded buildings and properties for compliance with the code for barrier free design (the code). The Committee is entrusted to promulgate and enforce the code which requires access and compliance with the ADA for buildings which receive or are improved with state or municipal funds. The ABFDC also works closely with other NH state agencies and offers letter of opinions regarding compliance with the code when the agencies are entering into 3<sup>rd</sup> party leases for non-state owned properties.

### **Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

The Governor's Commission on Disability houses the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and incorporates the Council's part time Program Assistant, into its staff structure. Under a contract and agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Education, the GCD is scheduled to receive \$55,000 for FY 2022 and FY 2023, for the housing of the SILC Program Assistant and related activities.

### **New England ADA Center (NEADA)**

The GCD is under contract with the New England ADA Center (NE ADA) to act as its State Affiliate in NH. The GCD is scheduled to receive \$4,200 for FY 2022. NE ADA receives federal funding on a 5 year grant cycle, and as NE ADA is in its last year of funding and it will reapply

for funding in calendar year 2021. NE ADA is not able to commit any additional funds in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the GCD at this time. By way of reference, the GCD received \$17,800 for FY 20 and \$16,800 for FY 2021. Should NE ADA award money to the GCD, then the latter will petition the Governor and Council appropriately for receipt and expending of the monies.

### **Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program (TEAP)**

Pursuant to RSA 362-E, the GCD administers the TEAP, and receives \$96,000 (from the PUC's telecommunications relay service trust fund) each fiscal year, of which up to \$92,250 is awarded annually for a 2-year contract to a successful bidder.

### **Newsline for the Blind**

Pursuant to RSA 275-C:8-a, the GCD is appropriated \$31,500 annually to fund the National Federation of the Blind's Newsline for the Blind. The source of the funding is the PUC's telecommunications relay service trust fund.

### **Staff of the GCD**

The GCD has a staff of 6 full time employees (including the Executive Director) and one part time employee, consisting of an Administrative Secretary, Business Administrator, Research and Information Specialist, Accessibility Specialist, Ombudsman of the Client Assistance Program (CAP), Program Assistant of Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).

The GCD has a valuable and pivotal position in State Government. It is an executive branch agency which acts as the state's ADA resource. The GCD interacts and provides advice to a number of other State of NH agencies on topics such as employment, physical accessibility, service animals, and benefits as related to individuals with disabilities. It does not surprise us that the GCD's strong relationships with so many of our sister State agencies has grown, as the issues that involve the Americans with Disabilities Act have intensified. Whether it involves the ADA and employment, the ADA and service animals, the ADA and physical accessibility—there is a growing need for collaboration that we do not see slowing down any time soon.

Over the past 7 years, the GCD has grown in stature and importance as evidenced by the increase in requests regarding ADA matters. Requests come in many forms and the GCD has been nimble in its response. Public inquiries, whether by phone or email, have increased. Requests to share information on a panel or make a presentation have increased. When you have every single member of the GCD operating from a place of collaboration, not only is the goal of communication and education achievable, but each member becomes even more valuable.

### **Brief Synopsis of GCD Initiatives and Plans**

- Continued education about STABLE NH;
- Continued collaboration with sister agencies such as DAS, DOE, DES, to assist in ADA education and compliance;

- Continued outreach via educational seminars;
- Provide staff training in relevant areas to maximize their efficiency;
- Increase of site visits of state owned properties and public sector to educate and insure compliance with ADA;
- Continued research of additional grant funded opportunities;
- Continued re-focus of committees to be more in line with statutes that govern the GCD core functions; and,
- Provide educational workshops for fees, perhaps with the granting of authorized continuing education units.

Thank you and respectfully submitted.



# New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability

Christopher T. Sununu, Governor  
Paul Van Blarigan, Chair  
Charles J. Saia, Executive Director

To: Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
And Senators of Senate Finance Committee  
New Hampshire State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

From: Charles J. Saia  
Executive Director  
Governor's Commission on Disability

RE: Senate Finance Committee Budget Hearing  
Budget Comparisons

Date: April 13, 2021

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We respectfully submit that the continued adequate funding of the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is essential to ensure that the mandates delegated to the Commission are effectively carried out. We suggest that the GCD FY 2022/2023 Operating Budget, as passed by the House of Representatives is in line with the actual expenses of FY 2020, and the FY 2021 Adjusted Authorized Budget.

The differences between the FY 2020 Actuals and FY 2021 Adjusted Authorized Budgets as compared to the FY 2022/2023 Operating Budget as passed by the House of Representatives are described below. In the interest of brevity for this document, I will review high level comparisons, and will discuss as necessary each class of the respective Accounting Unit at the Budget Hearing, as required by this Honorable Committee.

## **Accounting Unit (AU) 1004**

### **FY 2020 Actuals compared to FY 2022/2023**

As is found with the building of any budget, substantial increases are typically realized in Class 10 and Class 60 (payroll and benefits). Exhibit A, attached hereto, delineates the differences between FY 2020 Actuals as compared to FY 2022 and FY 2023 Operating Budget. Class 10 (payroll), Class 49 (Transfers to other Agency-Rent) and Class 60 (Benefits) realized a total increase of \$48,239.80 in FY2022 and \$66,788.00 in FY 2023. There is an overall increase in the General Funds Budget, when compared to FY 2020 actuals of \$73,903.00 in FY 2022 and an increase of \$92,226.00 in FY 2023.

## **FY 2021 Adjusted Authorized compared to FY 2022/2023**

Exhibit B, attached hereto, delineates the differences between FY 2021 Adjusted Authorized as compared to FY 2022 and FY 2023 Operating Budget. Class 10 (payroll), Class 49 (Transfers to other Agency-Rent) and Class 60 (Benefits) realized an increase of \$15,087 in FY2022 and 33,636.00 in FY 2023. There is an overall increase in the General Funds Budget, when compared to FY 2021 Adjusted Authorized of \$15,601.00 in FY 2022 and an increase of \$33,924.00 in FY 2023.

There are no significant and substantial budget issues. Additionally the GCD has not requested any new full-time or part-time positions in its FY 2022/2023 Operating Budget. Further no positions were eliminated by the GCD. The GCD was able to meet its proposed amended targets as requested by the the Governor's Budget Director. In an effort to continually reduce expenses, the GCD streamlined its General Fund Budget, in those classes which are highlighted on both of the attached Exhibits.

### **Accounting Unit (AU) 1006 (100% Federal Funds)**

This AU is comprised of 100% Federal Funds and is further described in the lower half sections of Exhibits A & B, attached hereto. All increases delineated will be offset by the appropriation in each year of the FY 2022/2023 budget. I will discuss as necessary each class of this Accounting Unit at the Budget Hearing, as requested by this Honorable Committee.

### **Accounting Unit (AU) 1007 (100% other Funds)**

This AU is comprised of 100% Other Funds. I will discuss the programs associated within this Accounting Unit and also describe each class of this Accounting Unit at the Budget Hearing, as requested by this Honorable Committee.

Thank you for your consideration and respectfully submitted.

EXHIBIT A

GOVERNORS COMMISSION ON DISABILITY												
EXPENSE PROJECTIONS FY20 TO FY22-23												
1004	GCD	FY20	FY22		FY23							
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXP	TOTAL APPR	DIFF FY20/FY22	TOTAL APPR	DIFF FY20/FY23						
001	Trsf from Other Ag (silc)	(46,143.05)	(54,972.00)	(8,828.95)	(56,590.00)	(10,446.95)						
005	Private Local Funds (neada)	(17,800.00)	(3,989.00)	13,811.00	0.00	17,800.00						
010	Pers Services Perm	181,862.18	198,017.00	16,154.82	207,693.00	25,830.82	**pr increase					
011	Pers Services Unclass	93,654.60	93,654.00	(0.60)	97,257.00	3,602.40	**pr increase					
020	Current Expense	2,204.26	4,779.00	2,574.74	3,115.00	910.74	**diff in grant \$					
022	Rents-Leases Other	1,572.00	1,572.00	-	1,572.00	-						
026	Membership Fees	-	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	trans from 20					
027	Trf to Dolt 582703	6,305.16	10,513.00	4,207.84	8,682.00	2,376.84	**from Dolt					
028	Trf to Gen Serv 582814	16,465.02	1,031.00	(15,434.02)	1,054.00	(15,411.02)	**moved to non state bld					
030	Equipment	-	300.00	300.00	50.00	50.00	**reduce GF to meet goal					
039	Telecommunications	4,998.68	4,348.00	(650.68)	4,370.00	(628.68)	**per telecom					
040	Indirect Costs	2,928.80	7,765.00	4,836.20	7,765.00	4,836.20	**per DAS					
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	-	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00						
042	Add Fringe Benefits	2,150.00	2,150.00	-	2,150.00	-						
049	Trf to Other St Ag 584995	-	25,519.00	25,519.00	25,602.00	25,602.00	**per dhhs eap pmts					
050	Pers Services Temp	23,515.03	30,749.00	7,233.97	31,714.00	8,198.97	**diff in silc /pro spec 111 pt 29hrs 28.79					
060	Benefits	153,772.00	174,741.00	20,969.00	183,485.00	29,713.00	**pr increase					
065	Board Expenses	2,995.81	5,500.00	2,504.19	4,000.00	1,004.19	**reduce GF to meet goal					
066	Employee Training	-	50.00	50.00	1.00	1.00	**reduce GF to meet goal					
070	In State Travel	1,035.13	2,000.00	964.87	1,500.00	464.87	**reduce GF to meet goal					
080	Out of State Travel	-	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**reduce GF to meet goal					
089	Trn DAS Main Fund	1,191.00	-	(1,191.00)	-	(1,191.00)	** office moved					
211	Trn DAS-RMU Ins Preams	-	290.00	290.00	320.00	320.00	**per das					
230	Interpreter Services	7,856.67	8,000.00	143.33	6,600.00	(1,256.67)	**reduce GF to meet goal					
	<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>502,507.34</b>	<b>571,428.00</b>	<b>68,920.66</b>	<b>587,380.00</b>	<b>84,873.66</b>						
	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>63,943.05</b>	<b>58,961.00</b>	<b>4,982.05</b>	<b>56,590.00</b>	<b>7,353.05</b>						
	<b>GEN FUNDS</b>	<b>438,564.29</b>	<b>512,467.00</b>	<b>73,902.71</b>	<b>530,790.00</b>	<b>92,225.71</b>						
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1006	CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM											
000	Federal Funds	(113,268.99)	(162,225.00)	(48,956.01)	(164,552.00)	(51,283.01)						
010	Pers Services Perm	68,512.50	69,552.00	1,039.50	74,256.00	5,743.50	**pr increase					
020	Current Expense	2,715.30	2,430.00	(285.30)	2,430.00	(285.30)	**reduce 20 /+ 25					
022	Rents-Leases Other	540.00	540.00	0.00	540.00	0.00						
025	Membership Fees	0.00	950.00	950.00	950.00	950.00	trans fr 20					
027	Trf to Dolt	2,204.65	3,608.00	1,403.35	2,980.00	775.35	**from Dolt					
028	Trf to General Services	5,650.57	354.00	(5,296.57)	362.00	(5,288.57)	** moved to non-state building					
030	Equipment	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						
039	Telecommunications	1,375.00	1,200.00	(175.00)	1,200.00	(175.00)						
040	Indirect Costs	943.20	2,665.00	1,721.80	2,665.00	1,721.80	**per DAS					
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	-	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00						
042	Add Fringe Benefits	7,227.00	5,000.00	(2,227.00)	5,000.00	(2,227.00)						
046	Consultants	-	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00						
049	Trns to Other State Agency	0.00	8,636.00	8,636.00	8,787.00	8,787.00	**eap pmts					
050	Pers Services Temp	0.00	29,542.00	29,542.00	29,542.00	29,542.00	**pt lg18 29 hrs					
060	Benefits	23,337.24	28,809.00	5,471.76	30,447.00	7,109.76	**ben change					
070	In State Travel	354.96	2,100.00	1,745.04	1,245.00	890.04	**less travel					
080	Out of State Travel	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	1,302.00	1,302.00	**less travel					
089	TrS to DAS Main FuND	408.00	0.00	(408.00)	0.00	(408.00)	**gcd moved					
211	Trn DAS-RMU Ins Preams	0.00	75.00	75.00	82.00	82.00	**per das					
	<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>113,268.42</b>	<b>162,225.00</b>	<b>48,956.58</b>	<b>164,552.00</b>	<b>51,283.58</b>						
			1.43	4,012.39	2.17	313.39	**reduce GF to meet goal					

GOVERNORS COMMISSION ON DISABILITY						
EXPENSE PROJECTIONS FY21 TO FY22-23						
1004	GCD	FY21	FY22		FY23	
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL APPR	TOTAL APPR	DIFF FY21/FY22	TOTAL APPR	DIFF FY21/FY23
001	Trsf from Other Ag (silc)	(54,882.00)	(54,972.00)	(90.00)	(56,590.00)	(1,708.00)
005	Private Local Funds (neada)	(16,801.00)	(3,989.00)	12,812.00	0.00	16,801.00
010	Pers Services Perm	191,125.00	198,017.00	6,892.00	207,693.00	16,568.00
011	Pers Services Unclass	93,655.00	93,654.00	(1.00)	97,257.00	3,602.00
020	Current Expense	9,003.00	4,779.00	(4,224.00)	3,115.00	(5,888.00)
022	Rents-Leases Other	1,572.00	1,572.00	-	1,572.00	-
026	Membership Fees	50.00	360.00	310.00	360.00	310.00
027	Trf to Dolt 582703	8,376.00	10,513.00	2,137.00	8,682.00	306.00
028	Trf to Gen Serv 582814	19,937.00	1,031.00	(18,906.00)	1,054.00	(18,883.00)
030	Equipment	500.00	300.00	(200.00)	50.00	(450.00)
039	Telecommunications	4,030.00	4,348.00	318.00	4,370.00	340.00
040	Indirect Costs	3,045.00	7,765.00	4,720.00	7,765.00	4,720.00
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	40.00	40.00	-	40.00	-
042	Add Fringe Benefits	2,150.00	2,150.00	-	2,150.00	-
049	Trf to Other St Ag 584995	166.00	25,519.00	25,353.00	25,602.00	25,436.00
050	Pers Services Temp	37,201.00	30,749.00	(6,452.00)	31,714.00	(5,487.00)
060	Benefits	174,024.00	174,741.00	717.00	183,485.00	9,461.00
065	Board Expenses	7,500.00	5,500.00	(2,000.00)	4,000.00	(3,500.00)
066	Employee Training	434.00	50.00	(384.00)	1.00	(433.00)
070	In State Travel	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	1,500.00	(500.00)
080	Out of State Travel	1,600.00	50.00	(1,550.00)	50.00	(1,550.00)
089	Trn DAS Main Fund	1,191.00	-	(1,191.00)	-	(1,191.00)
211	Trn DAS-RMU Ins Prems	1,191.00	290.00	(901.00)	320.00	(871.00)
230	Interpreter Services	10,950.00	8,000.00	(2,950.00)	6,600.00	(4,350.00)
	<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>569,740.00</b>	<b>571,428.00</b>	<b>1,688.00</b>	<b>587,380.00</b>	<b>17,640.00</b>
	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>71,683.00</b>	<b>58,961.00</b>	<b>(12,722.00)</b>	<b>56,590.00</b>	<b>15,093.00</b>
	<b>GEN FUND</b>	<b>496,866.00</b>	<b>512,467.00</b>	<b>15,601.00</b>	<b>530,790.00</b>	<b>33,924.00</b>
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1006	CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM					
000	Federal Funds	(156,820.00)	(162,225.00)	(5,405.00)	(164,552.00)	(7,732.00)
010	Pers Services Perm	69,552.00	69,552.00	0.00	74,256.00	4,704.00
020	Current Expense	3,172.00	2,430.00	(742.00)	2,430.00	(742.00)
022	Rents-Leases Other	540.00	540.00	0.00	540.00	0.00
025	Membership Fees	0.00	950.00	950.00	950.00	950.00
027	Trf to Dolt	2,875.00	3,608.00	733.00	2,980.00	105.00
028	Trf to General Services	6,842.00	354.00	(6,488.00)	362.00	(6,480.00)
030	Equipment	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
039	Telecommunications	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
040	Indirect Costs	2,402.00	2,665.00	263.00	2,665.00	263.00
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	164.00	164.00	0.00	164.00	0.00
042	Add Fringe Benefits	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
046	Consultants	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
049	Trns to Other State Agency	196.00	8,636.00	8,440.00	8,787.00	8,591.00
050	Pers Services Temp	29,542.00	29,542.00	0.00	29,542.00	0.00
060	Benefits	26,327.00	28,809.00	2,482.00	30,447.00	4,120.00
070	In State Travel	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00	1,245.00	(855.00)
080	Out of State Travel	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	1,302.00	(2,698.00)
089	TrS to DAS Main FuND	408.00	0.00	(408.00)	0.00	(408.00)
211	Trn DAS-RMU Ins Prems	0.00	75.00	75.00	82.00	82.00
	<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>156,820.00</b>	<b>162,225.00</b>	<b>5,405.00</b>	<b>164,552.00</b>	<b>7,732.00</b>
			1.43	(7,084.00)	2.17	(10,783.00)
						**reduce GF to meet goal