

# Massachusetts State Report

June 2025

## State of the State for IDD

Massachusetts continues to be plagued by a scarcity of services for individuals with IDD, especially those who have severe intellectual disability or autism.

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services does not inform families of the state operated system, including the two remaining ICF/IID facilities, the Wrentham Developmental Center, and the Hogan Regional Center.

There are reports of abuse and neglect of individuals served in the IDD system. Interested parties can find examples of abuse and neglect as well as other stories of interest regarding those with developmental disabilities in Massachusetts on the [COFAR blog](#).

## Closure of the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital

In early 2025, citing budgetary concerns, the Healey administration announced the closure of the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital, an essential facility for some of the most vulnerable students in Massachusetts. The hospital is situated on 160 acres in Canton, Massachusetts, and has classrooms and dorm rooms, a basketball court, a horse track, and a boat dock on a nearby lake.

In February, amid push back from stakeholders, Healey announced that she is pausing the closure. However, reports from families indicate that students are being discharged from the facility, suggesting that the closure is quietly moving forward.

## Protection and Advocacy Center in Massachusetts

The Protection and Advocacy Center in Massachusetts is the Disability Law Center (DLC). Like other Protection and Advocacy Centers across the US, the DLC has been instrumental in the closure of sheltered workshops and ICF/IID facilities. Today, thousands of Massachusetts individuals with IDD who may have been served in these models are currently unserved. These results have affected those with the most severe disabilities disproportionately. The DLC is now pushing the Supported Decision Making (SDM) ideology in Massachusetts.

Despite these ideological campaigns, the Disability Law Center is the only conflict- of-interest free oversight body for DDS-served individuals in Massachusetts.

Our DDS system redirects abuse and neglect cases involving those in the DDS system to the DDS Investigations Unit. The DDS Investigations Unit then investigates the DDS or the DDS contracted provider.

## Formation of the Saving Wrentham and Hogan Alliance

In early 2025, a group of families whose loved ones were denied admission to one of the two remaining ICF/IDD facilities in Massachusetts learned of another group of families who were interested in developing the campus of the Wrentham Developmental Center. These two groups merged and formed the Saving Wrentham and Hogan Alliance. Families who had loved ones currently at the remaining ICF/IID facilities, and several organizations joined us to endorse our cause. Our supporting organizations include the Voice of Reason (VOR), the Coalition of Families and Advocates (COFAR), the National Council on Severe Autism (NCSA), the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), and the Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME 93).

On May 9, 2025, we held our first event at the Massachusetts State House. You can read about this at <https://www.norfolkwrenthamnews.com/2025/05/28/533603/norfolk-wrentham-june-2025>

We also have a private Facebook group to brainstorm ideas.

Our goal is to work towards a system of choice for individuals with IDD and their families. We would like these choices to include viable options for those with severe and profound autism and/or IDD such as ICF/IID care, intentional communities, and work/day program options.

Submitted by:

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