

FY 2020 Budget Request

Please Fund The Youth Leadership Forum & Youth Leadership Network!



The **Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)** is operated by Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Inc. The forum is for students with disabilities who are between the ages of 16-25. There is an annual multi-day conference for youth with disabilities during the summer. The workshops and activities foster employment readiness, independence, peer networking, and leadership skills. **The funding for this forum has been cut in the past. (\$133,000)**

The **Youth Leadership Network (YLN)**, operated by Easterseals Massachusetts, is a year round program for transition aged youth with disabilities aged 16 to 21 to engage youth in activities that will help them develop the necessary leadership skills to advocate for themselves and the disability community at large. Over 100 youth with disabilities participated in 45 events in FY17. The YLN was created to offer continued engagement to participants of the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum, and any other young adult with a disability who wanted an ongoing platform to exercise their leadership and advocacy skills. **The network is not fully funded. (\$100,000)**

Please support the Youth Leadership Programs Budget Line Item 4120-4000. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission ... Add \$233,000 and earmark language for Youth Leadership to 4120-4000

*Please contact Joe Bellil, Vice President of Public Affairs & Youth Services, for more information:
jbellil@eastersealsma.org / 508-751-6340*