



NH Governor's Commission on Disability



# GCD's Operating Budget for FY2026-FY2027

## Presentation to New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee

April 15, 2025

# The ADA is key to understanding the GCD.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that ensures disability rights are civil rights.

The ADA put the force of law behind the thought that all have the right to opportunity—the opportunity to be independent, make choices, and have control over their lives.



The signing of the ADA  
1990, President H. W. Bush

# The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

- The [Governor's Commission on Disability](#) is administratively within the Governor's office and is comprised of Commission Members, an Executive Director, and Agency staff.
- The GCD's Executive Director:
  - Acts as the secretary to the Commission and ensures operational efficiency and compliance with governing statutes and regulations.
  - Acts as a liaison between the Commission, the Governor's Office, the Executive Council, the public, the Agency office, and the State legislature.
  - Oversees agency staff and running the day-to-day operations of the Commission.



# The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

- The Commission Members and its Chair are appointed by the Governor.
- The Commission membership includes (up to 30) voting Commission Members comprised of:
  - Persons with a disability;
  - Family members or parents or guardians of persons with a disability;
  - Persons from the general public; and/or
  - Members of organizations who provide services for persons with a disability.
- The Commission currently has fifteen (15) governor-appointed [Commission Members](#).

# The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

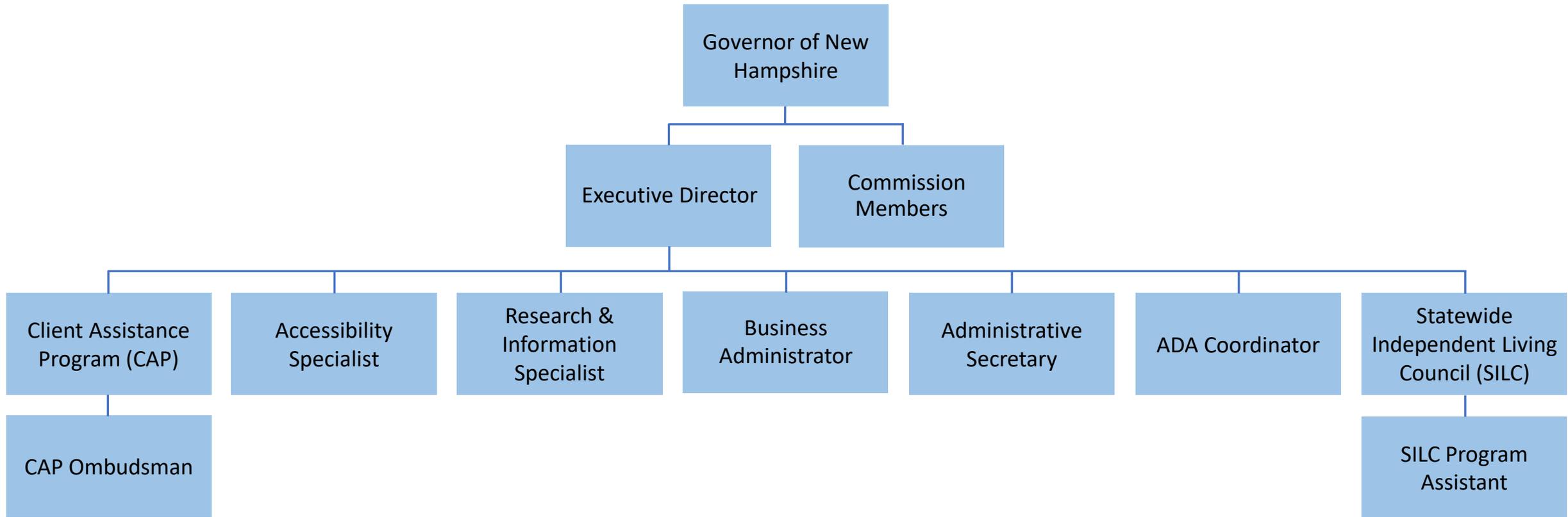
- The commission membership also includes six (6) non-voting Ex-Officio Members:
  - The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services or designee;
  - The Administrator of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, NH Education Department (NHED), or designee;
  - The Supervisor of Blind Services, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, NHED, or designee;
  - The Commissioner of Labor or designee;
  - The Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security, or designee; and
  - A member of the State Board of Education designated by the Governor.



# The Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

- Pursuant to [RSA 275-C:10-18](#), the GCD has a statutory committee, known as the Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee (ABFDC), which adopts and enforces the code for barrier free design (the code).
- The ABFDC works closely with other NH state agencies and issues letters of opinion regarding compliance with the code when the agencies are entering into 3rd party leases for non-state-owned properties.

# GCD Organizational Chart



# GCD: The Core Functions

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- Advises the Governor, State Agencies, the NH Legislature, and the public on the needs, rights, and interests of citizens with disabilities.
- Coordinates, educates, and trains on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Makes recommendations regarding the adequacy of state programs, plans, and budgets for services for persons with disabilities.
- Monitors and reports on bills of interest regarding persons with disabilities.

# GCD: Programs...The NH ABLE Plan

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- Pursuant to [RSA 195-K](#), the Executive Director of the GCD and the NH State Treasurer are the co-administrators of New Hampshire's Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Savings Program known as [The NH ABLE Plan](#).
- Accounts in the NH ABLE Plan allow individuals with a disability to save money, tax free, without jeopardizing needs-based benefits like Medicaid.
- The NH ABLE Plan and the prior plan known as STABLE NH have 1,244 accounts and total NH Assets of \$12.3 million (as of 12/31/2025).
- The NH ABLE Plan is implemented without any general funds.

# GCD: Programs...Client Assistance Program

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- Implements and operates the federally funded Client Assistance Program (CAP), designed to facilitate concerns that arise between persons with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation.
- CAP, on a case-by-case basis, also educates and advocates on Title I of the ADA which pertains to employment.
- The FY2026 and FY2027 Budget anticipates a minimum federal grant award of \$131,917 per year through the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education.

# GCD: Programs...Statewide Independent Living Council

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is an independent cross-disability council, which provides leadership and advocacy in support of the independent living philosophy.
- Under contract with the New Hampshire Education Department (NHED), the GCD is scheduled to receive up to \$90,000 each year in FY2025, FY2026, and FY2027 to house the SILC Program including the part-time SILC Program Assistant and SILC related expenses.
- Per the most recent approved [contract](#) (MOU), the contract is funded with 100% federal funds, which then pass-through to the GCD as 100% other funds.

# GCD: Programs...Telecommunications Equipment

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- Pursuant to [RSA 275-C:20](#), the GCD administers the Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program (TEAP) to distribute telecommunication devices to persons with specific impairments impacting telephone use.
- The program is funded in the annual amount not to exceed \$96,000 by the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) telecommunications relay service trust fund. Up to \$92,250 is awarded annually for a two-year contract to a successful bidder.
- The GCD files an [annual report](#) which shall include the number of persons assisted, all sources of funding, and the total amount disbursed.

# GCD: Programs...NFB Newsline

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline is a free audio news service that allows any blind, visually impaired, or print disabled person access to a variety of media and information.
- The service offers access to more than 500 publications, emergency weather alerts, job listings, and more.
- Pursuant to [RSA 275-C:8-a](#), the GCD receives an annual appropriation of \$31,5000 to fund NFB Newsline from the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) telecommunications relay service trust fund.

# GCD: Programs...New England ADA Center

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- The GCD is under contract with the New England ADA Center (NE ADA) to act as its State Affiliate in NH to provide technical assistance, trainings and webinars, and outreach relative to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The GCD is scheduled to receive \$16,075.00 for FY2025 and \$4,025.00 for a portion of FY2026.
- Although the GCD is unable to determine funding for the remainder of FY2026 and FY2027, by way of reference, the GCD received \$16,000.00 for FY2024 and \$18,667.00 for FY2023.

# GCD: The Core Functions

## Education Collaboration Consultation

- Strategic use of social media has served as a cost-effective means to educate a wide audience on issues regarding the ADA. By defining audiences and issues, and using GCD's data from the internal data log, social media has proven to be effective.
- In addition, social media is a practical, no-cost option for collaboration and support of a range of State of New Hampshire agencies, advocacy groups, and those with special interest in issues surrounding disability.

# The GCD is NH's ADA Resource

- National Association of Governor Commissions on Disability
- National ABLE Alliance
- Northeast Client Assistance Program (CAP) Work Group
- Commission on Deafness & Hearing Loss
- Legislative Commission on PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Statewide Coordinating Council for Community Transportation
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Statewide Trail Advisory Committee
- Joint Committee on Code Enforcement
- Building Code Review Board
- Ethics Advisory Committee
- Medical Care Advisory Council
- Public Water Access Advisory Board

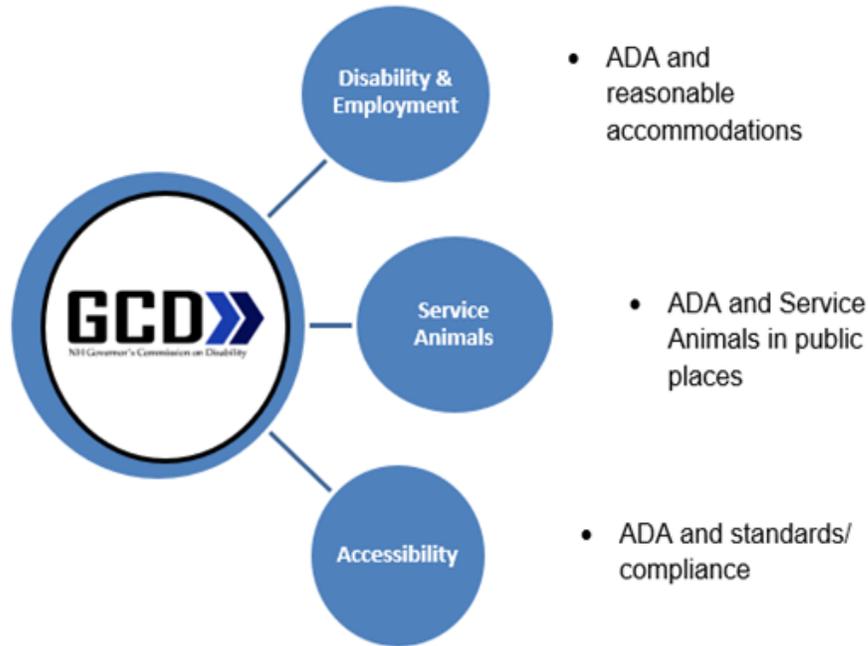
# GCD Facts: Work Interconnectivity (3 examples)

**Accessibility Specialist** – Before a lease on a state building is signed, it is reviewed by the Accessibility Specialist for ADA compliance using a checklist based on 2010 Standards. Site visits are part of the process as is working with Admin Services. Recommendations and suggestions are made, and the matter is brought before the GCD Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee.

**Client Assistance Program (CAP) Ombudsman** – With disability & employment such an important topic, it is understandable that the Client Assistance Program Ombudsman handles the most difficult of cases which may involve mental health issues or recovery in the workplace issues. It is not uncommon to work with Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Education, Bureau of Developmental Services, Granite State Independent Living and others. What is reasonable accommodation in the workplace? That's the kind of question the Employment Specialist may be involved with.

**Research & Information Specialist** – The GCD handled approximately 500 public inquiries in 2024, and this includes those that have been directed to our office by the Governor's Constituent Services Department. The GCD and the Governor's Constituent Services Department have a long history of assisting one another in order to provide the best customer service to resolve difficult issues around the ADA.

# GCD Facts: Internal Data from Public Inquiries



- The GCD is citizen-centric. Inquiries come to the GCD's attention in a variety of ways and the information is internally logged. In addition to ensuring a rapid response, based on data provided, the GCD can get a picture of top ADA issues or concerns. The data is a tool to drive the GCD to strategically use its time and educational resources.
- Information on this chart is simplified for presentation purposes. For example, Accessibility Issues include accessible parking, building accessibility and more. Employment & Disability inquiries range from disability employment accommodations to assistance with removing obstacles to finding a job. Service Dog questions range from what are the differences between an emotional support animal and a service animal, to what questions may be asked of a handler of a service animal.

# GCD: By the **Numbers**...Budget Recommendations

- 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 GCD are effectively carried out.
- The Governor's Recommended budget and the Agency's submitted budget for each year of the biennium is in line with the FY2024 actual expenses and the FY2025 Adjusted Authorized Budget.
- The FY2026/FY2027 Budget as passed by the House eliminates \$73,000 and \$75,000 respectively from Class 50, part time salaries.

# GCD: By the **Numbers**...Budget Recommendations

- \$36,000 (FY2026) and \$37,000 (FY2027) are **Other Funds** and NOT General Funds, from the NH Education Department (NHED), which funds have been obligated by NHED, and 2-year contract has been approved by G&C ([077 G&C Agenda 03-26-2025](#)) to house the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) program and associated costs.
- The SILC Program Assistant position has been filled since 2018 with same employee who supports the SILC Program.
- The GCD requests reinstatement of Other Funds, consistent with Governor's Recommended Budget for each year of the biennium.

# GCD: By the **Numbers**...Budget Recommendations

- \$37,000 (FY2026) and \$38,000 (FY2027) are General Funds for an ADA Coordinator position.
- The ADA Coordinator position was created in the current budget, because of recommendations from GCD Workforce Focus Group. This position was recently filled with a candidate to commence employment on May 2, 2025.
- The GCD requests General Funds, consistent with Governor's recommended budget, in each year of biennium..

## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY - General Funds

Class	A	B	C	D
	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Auth	FY2026 House Budget	FY2027 House Budget
	General Funds	General Funds	General Funds	General Funds
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>				
010-Personal Services-Perm. Classified	207,548	220,947	233,232	240,425
011-Personal Services-Unclassified	91,868	97,225	98,518	98,519
020-Current Expenses	4,376	4,115	3,500	3,500
022-Rents-Leases Other Than State	672	900	1,542	1,542
026-Organizational Dues	-	200	100	100
027-Transfers To DoIT	11,140	13,093	12,156	13,050
028-Transfers to Plant & Prop	389	1,349	1,038	1,055
030-Equipment New/Replacement	1,092	2,000	100	100
037-Technology - Hardware	1,482	-	-	-
038-Technology - Software	415	400	500	500
039-Telecommunications	3,923	3,670	4,280	4,280
040-Indirect Costs	1,403	5,612	-	-
041-Audit Fund Set Aside	-	-	-	-
042-Additional Fringe Benefits	-	-	-	-
046-Consultants	-	-	-	-
049-Transfer to Other State Agencies	25,743	22,158	30,338	30,856
<b>050-Personal Service-Temp/Appointed</b>	-	35,851	-	-
060-Benefits	145,956	184,989	177,449	186,772
062-Workers Compensation	4,921	1,095	922	980
065-Board Expenses	5,846	6,000	6,600	6,600
066-Employee training	-	1	1	1
070-In-State Travel Reimbursement	679	2,500	1,500	1,500
080-Out-Of State Travel	-	1	1	1
211-Property and Casualty Insurance	-	1	1	1
230-Interpreter Services	6,463	10,000	9,000	9,000
571-Pass Thru Grants	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>513,915</b>	<b>612,107</b>	<b>580,778</b>	<b>598,782</b>

**Increases:**

- Class 010** - Increase due to raises (step progressions) and increased longevity payments.
- Class 022** - Increase due to new multifunction device (copier) lease and updated shared expense allocation.
- Class 039** - Phone line fee for fax will double per Telecomm Planning Guide and email sent to Telecomm to confirm.
- Class 049** - Includes HRSU, EAP, and rent to DOP. In previous biennium, the budget DID NOT include HRSU. Increase due to addition of HRSU and higher rental costs.
- Class 065** - Travel reimbursement for board members increase every year because the IRS mileage rate increases.

Class	FY2026-FY2027 With Additional Class 050 Funding			
	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Auth	FY2026 Gov's Rec Budget	FY2027 Gov's Rec Budget
	General Funds	General Funds	General Funds	General Funds
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>				
050-Personal Service-Temp/Appointed			37,000	38,000
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>			<b>617,778</b>	<b>636,782</b>

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY - Other Funds (SILC)**

Class	A	B	C	D
	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Auth	FY2026 House Budget	FY2027 House Budget
	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>				
010-Personal Services-Perm. Classified	4,528	5,019	2,820	2,839
011-Personal Services-Unclassified	8,659	9,616	9,744	9,744
020-Current Expenses	909	2,000	2,000	2,000
022-Rents-Leases Other Than State	900	900	190	190
026-Organizational Dues	-	-	-	-
027-Transfers To DoIT	-	-	1,238	1,335
028-Transfers to Plant & Prop	-	-	137	134
030-Equipment New/Replacement	-	-	-	-
037-Technology - Hardware	1,613	2,000	2,000	2,000
038-Technology - Software	150	400	350	350
039-Telecommunications	492	1,015	580	580
040-Indirect Costs	780	838	1,021	1,026
041-Audit Fund Set Aside	-	1	1	1
042-Additional Fringe Benefits	2,690	3,360	3,425	3,500
046-Consultants	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
049-Transfer to Other State Agencies	5,036	4,433	4,044	4,108
<b>050-Personal Service-Temp/Appointed</b>	<b>31,036</b>	<b>33,242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
060-Benefits	9,867	10,478	9,433	9,809
062-Workers Compensation	-	150	121	129
065-Board Expenses	1,917	6,000	6,000	6,000
066-Employee training	-	-	-	-
070-In-State Travel Reimbursement	-	-	-	-
080-Out-Of State Travel	-	-	-	-
211-Property and Casualty Insurance	-	-	-	-
230-Interpreter Services	1,851	6,600	5,871	4,225
571-Pass Thru Grants	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>70,429</b>	<b>91,052</b>	<b>53,975</b>	<b>52,970</b>

Class	FY2024 Actual	FY2025 Adjusted Auth	FY2026 House Budget	FY2027 House Budget
	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)	Other Funds (SILC)
	<b>FY2026-FY2027 With Additional Class 050 Funding</b>			
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>				
050-Personal Service-Temp/Appointed			36,000	37,000
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>			<b>89,975</b>	<b>89,970</b>

**FY2027 GCD HOUSE BUDGET WITHOUT OTHER (SILC) FUNDS  
01-02-002-020510-AU 10040000**

CLASS	FY2024 Actual				FY2025 Adjusted Auth			FY2026 House Budget						FY2027 House Budget						
	General Funds	NEADA	SILC	TOTAL	General Funds	SILC	TOTAL	General Funds	Other (SILC) Funds	Sub Total	Remove Other (SILC) Funds	Increase to GF	TOTAL	General Funds	Other (SILC) Funds	Sub Total	Remove Other (SILC) Funds	Increase to GF	TOTAL	
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>																				
<b>010-Personal Services-Perm. Classified</b>	207,548	5,540	4,528	<b>217,616</b>	220,947	5,019	<b>225,966</b>	233,232	2,820	236,052	(2,820)	<b>2,820</b>	<b>236,052</b>	240,425	2,839	243,264	(2,839)	<b>2,839</b>	<b>243,264</b>	
<b>011-Personal Services-Unclassified</b>	91,868	4,185	8,659	<b>104,712</b>	97,225	9,616	<b>106,841</b>	98,518	9,744	108,262	(9,744)	<b>9,744</b>	<b>108,262</b>	98,519	9,744	108,263	(9,744)	<b>9,744</b>	<b>108,263</b>	
020-Current Expenses	2,895	-	909	<b>3,804</b>	4,115	2,000	<b>6,115</b>	3,500	2,000	5,500	(2,000)	-	<b>3,500</b>	3,500	2,000	5,500	(2,000)	-	<b>3,500</b>	
<b>022-Rents-Leases Other Than State</b>	672	-	900	<b>1,572</b>	900	900	<b>1,800</b>	1,542	190	1,732	(190)	<b>190</b>	<b>1,732</b>	1,542	190	1,732	(190)	<b>190</b>	<b>1,732</b>	
026-Organizational Dues	-	-	-	-	200	-	<b>200</b>	100	-	100	-	-	<b>100</b>	100	-	100	-	-	<b>100</b>	
<b>027-Transfers To DoIT</b>	11,140	-	-	<b>11,140</b>	13,093	-	<b>13,093</b>	12,156	1,238	13,394	(1,238)	<b>1,238</b>	<b>13,394</b>	13,050	1,335	14,385	(1,335)	<b>1,335</b>	<b>14,385</b>	
<b>028-Transfers to Plant &amp; Prop</b>	389	-	-	<b>389</b>	1,349	-	<b>1,349</b>	1,038	137	1,175	(137)	<b>137</b>	<b>1,175</b>	1,055	134	1,189	(134)	<b>134</b>	<b>1,189</b>	
030-Equipment New/Replacement	1,092	-	-	<b>1,092</b>	2,000	-	<b>2,000</b>	100	-	100	-	-	<b>100</b>	100	-	100	-	-	<b>100</b>	
037-Technology - Hardware	1,482	-	1,613	<b>3,095</b>	-	2,000	<b>2,000</b>	-	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	
038-Technology - Software	415	-	150	<b>565</b>	400	400	<b>800</b>	500	350	850	(350)	-	<b>500</b>	500	350	850	(350)	-	<b>500</b>	
<b>039-Telecommunications</b>	3,923	-	492	<b>4,415</b>	3,670	1,015	<b>4,685</b>	4,280	580	4,860	(580)	<b>122</b>	<b>4,402</b>	4,280	580	4,860	(580)	<b>122</b>	<b>4,402</b>	
<b>040-Indirect Costs</b>	1,403	225	780	<b>2,408</b>	5,612	838	<b>6,450</b>	-	1,021	1,021	(1,021)	<b>255</b>	<b>255</b>	-	1,026	1,026	(1,026)	-	-	
041-Audit Fund Set Aside	-	-	-	-	-	1	<b>1</b>	-	1	1	(1)	-	-	-	1	1	(1)	-	-	
042-Additional Fringe Benefits	-	477	2,690	<b>3,167</b>	-	3,360	<b>3,360</b>	-	3,425	3,425	(3,425)	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	(3,500)	-	-	
046-Consultants	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	<b>5,000</b>	-	5,000	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	
<b>049-Transfer to Other State Agencies</b>	25,743	-	5,036	<b>30,779</b>	22,158	4,433	<b>26,591</b>	30,338	4,044	34,382	(4,044)	<b>4,044</b>	<b>34,382</b>	30,856	4,108	34,964	(4,108)	<b>4,108</b>	<b>34,964</b>	
050-Personal Service-Temp/Appointed	-	-	31,036	<b>31,036</b>	35,851	33,242	<b>69,093</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>060-Benefits</b>	145,508	5,573	9,867	<b>160,948</b>	184,989	10,478	<b>195,467</b>	177,449	9,433	186,882	(9,433)	<b>6,629</b>	<b>184,078</b>	186,772	9,809	196,581	(9,809)	<b>6,930</b>	<b>193,702</b>	
<b>062-Workers Compensation</b>	4,921	-	-	<b>4,921</b>	1,095	150	<b>1,245</b>	922	121	1,043	(121)	<b>31</b>	<b>953</b>	980	129	1,109	(129)	<b>33</b>	<b>1,013</b>	
065-Board Expenses	5,846	-	1,917	<b>7,763</b>	6,000	6,000	<b>12,000</b>	6,600	6,000	12,600	(6,000)	-	<b>6,600</b>	6,600	6,000	12,600	(6,000)	-	<b>6,600</b>	
066-Employee training	-	-	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	
070-In-State Travel Reimbursement	679	-	-	<b>679</b>	2,500	-	<b>2,500</b>	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	<b>1,500</b>	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	<b>1,500</b>	
080-Out-Of State Travel	-	-	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	
211-Property and Casualty Insurance	-	-	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	1	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>	
230-Interpreter Services	6,463	-	1,851	<b>8,314</b>	10,000	6,600	<b>16,600</b>	9,000	5,871	14,871	(5,871)	-	<b>9,000</b>	9,000	4,225	13,225	(4,225)	-	<b>9,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>511,986</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>70,429</b>	<b>598,415</b>	<b>612,107</b>	<b>91,052</b>	<b>703,159</b>	<b>580,778</b>	<b>53,975</b>	<b>634,753</b>	<b>(53,975)</b>	<b>25,211</b>	<b>605,989</b>	<b>598,782</b>	<b>52,970</b>	<b>651,752</b>	<b>(52,970)</b>	<b>25,435</b>	<b>624,217</b>	

**Classes 010, 011, and 060** - Other (SILC) Funds pay a percentage of salaries and benefits. If the Program is eliminated, General Funds would need to cover the shortfall.  
**Classes 022, 027, 028, 039, and 062** - Other (SILC) Funds pay a percentage of shared costs. Because these are fixed costs, the amounts would need to be replaced with General Funds.  
**Class 040** - Because the FY2025 4th quarter is paid in October of next fiscal year (FY2026), the final payment would need to be paid with General Funds.  
**Class 049** - This includes payments to HRSU, rent to DOP, and EAP which are fixed, shared costs which will need to be covered with General Funds



**The GCD is NH's ADA resource.**  
Thank you for the opportunity  
to share who the GCD is and what we do.



[www.disability.nh.gov](http://www.disability.nh.gov)  
**603.271.2773**

