



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
GENERAL BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE**

MARCH 22, 2021

Good afternoon Senators Moore and Martin, Representatives Borer and Piscopo and distinguished members of the General Bonding Subcommittee. I am Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Scott McWilliams, DDS Chief Fiscal Officer, and Warren Schilling, DDS Plant Facility Engineer 2, are here to assist me in answering any questions you may have. Thank you for allowing me to testify on **S.B. No. 887 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

We come before the subcommittee today to express the department's support of **S.B. No. 887** and the Governor's recommended bond authorizations of \$2 million in FY 2022 and \$2 million in FY 2023 for the department and to present DDS's plan for utilizing unallocated bond fund balances.

Nearly 17,000 individuals have been determined eligible for supports and services through DDS. DDS-operated or state-owned facilities represent an inventory of approximately 1.6 million square feet of campus-settings (Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities ICF/IID), group homes, and administrative office space across Connecticut. These DDS-operated properties were built as early as 1760 up to 2002 and include structural systems that range from residential utility systems to major power plants. Code requirements associated with these buildings touch almost every chapter of the life safety code as well as extensive ADA, OSHA, environmental, health, licensure and building code requirements. It is essential that DDS has accessible funds to immediately initiate corrective action if code, licensure, safety, health, or emergency conditions need to be addressed.

The department is prepared to prioritize the current bond fund balances to address necessary repairs to maintain the safe operation of residences for the individuals we serve and the workplaces of DDS employees. Anticipated projects include, but are not limited to:

- Health, Safety, Fire, ADA, Environmental and Code compliance.
- Major underground utility system repairs (high voltage electrical, sewer, water and gas lines)
- Critical paving and sidewalk repairs
- Repair and replacement of failed and leaking roofs
- Repair and replacement of failed heating and AC systems.
- Renovation of deteriorated buildings and living spaces including kitchens and bathrooms.

DDS also maintains federal Medicaid waiver assurances that require a level of quality care for individuals who receive funding and services from our department. Maintaining Medicaid waiver assurances has allowed the state to collect Federal Financial Participation (FFP) reimbursement for DDS services. Access to capital funding and bonding resources so that necessary repairs and improvements can be made to our facilities is a critical component in DDS's compliance with federal Medicaid waiver assurances and Department of Public Health (DPH) ICF/IID certification standards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of **[S.B. No. 887](#)** **AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.** I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time. You also may contact Rod O'Connor, DDS Legislative Liaison, by e-mail at rod.oconnor@ct.gov or by text at 860-883-0727 with additional questions.