Florida ARF 2017 Legislative Platform

Florida ARF represents more than 100 community agencies in the State of Florida, many of which were founded more than 50 years ago by families to provide critical care to their loved ones. These agencies and others provide services to thousands of individuals with disabilities and collectively provide jobs for more than 20,000 Floridians.

Platform Issues

- Addressing the Workforce Staffing Crisis: Florida ARF requests an 11% rate adjustment for key iBudget waiver services (Residential Habilitation, Adult Day Training, Personal Supports, and Supported Employment). The increases will cost approximately $34 million in state funds and will draw down an additional $51 million in federal match.

- Funding for the Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) program; Vocational Rehabilitation (VR); and, Early Steps (Part C) must be maintained so individuals with disabilities can reach their potential.

- Reinstatement of Adults with Disabilities Funding that was cut in 2015 will be sought.

Watch and Act Issues

- Amendments to the DD Act, Chapter 393, F.S., must meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and should include removal of Supported Employment and Supported Living service limitations within the statute.

- Public policy changes must ensure that individuals with disabilities have the right to make informed choices regarding employment including the opportunity to choose their work settings.

- State policy that promotes gainful employment through state purchasing of products and services offered by RESPECT of Florida should be supported.

- Statutory language mandating competitive, unrestricted bidding for VR services will be opposed.

Track and Report Issues

Legislative activity will be monitored and all pending legislation that affects Florida ARF members and the individuals they serve will be addressed. Bills that require more than "Tracking and Reporting" will be moved to the "Watch and Act" status as appropriate.