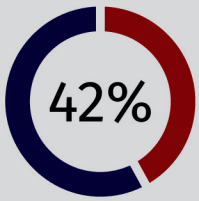
2026- 2027 Fiscal Year Base Budget Request

Florida ARF is urging the Legislature to allocate additional resources to sustain services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To achieve this goal, we are requesting a 5% increase to the iBudget Waiver, which would require $48.6 million in General Revenue and be complemented by a $65.2 million Federal match.

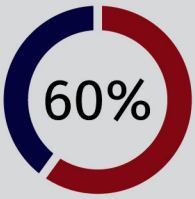
Furthermore, transportation services are essential for fostering independence, supporting health, facilitating employment, and enabling individuals to lead fulfilling lives. We recommend the implementation of a standardized transportation reimbursement methodology within the iBudget that ensures providers receive sufficient funding.

Our survey of providers reveals a critical situation:

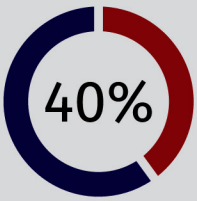
95% are Currently Operating at a Loss on iBudget Services



Had to Intentionally Reduce Client Services this Past Year



Planning to Further Reduce Services



Lack of Funding Impacted Ability to Maintain Services this Past Year

Providers require this funding to remain competitive in the labor market, especially as the minimum wage increases by another dollar per hour and inflation continues to impact their financial stability. On top of wage pressure, other operational costs are still causing providers to not be able to make ends meet. All types of insurance costs, as well as every other expense has seen historic inflation which isn't matched by the reimbursement rates.

iBudget providers rely soley on Medicaid for reimbursement, distinguishing them from many healthcare sectors. If this trend persists without adequate funding, there will be fewer options for those seeking services. Currently, providers are selling assets and making cuts to stay afloat while continuing to deliver essential services. An increase in funding would help stabilize providers, ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to find and choose appropriate services.

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