



Florida ARF 2018 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 recurring funds for APD to continue last year's non-recurring funding of \$41 million (\$17.5 million in General Revenue) that covered the cost of the Department of Labor Home Care rule changes and a very modest increase for some select services in the iBudget program. Florida ARF also requests a 3% increase of \$22.6 million for select services rates to continue progress toward addressing competitive wages for direct care workers (\$8.7 million in General Revenue). These actions will cover the cost of the Department of Labor Home Care rule changes and will fund rate adjustments for Residential Habilitation, Adult Day Training, and Personal Supports services.
- Funding for the Community ICF/IID program must be funded at \$266,002,163, and new legislative proviso language is needed that does not result in automatic rate cuts for this cost reimbursement program when funding levels are inadequate.
- Funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Early Steps (Part C) programs must not drop below the current levels.
- Resources and supports must be identified and made available to assist provider agencies with hurricane preparation and recovery efforts.

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 must 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.