



## Florida ARF 2026 Legislative Platform

Florida ARF represents community agencies across 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

- **iBudget Waiver Rate Increase.** A funding increase is needed for the iBudget waiver. Providers continue to reduce their exposure to the waiver due to rates, staffing shortages, and additional mandates. Provider staff want to be given competitive wages which are not possible with the current funding.

### Secondary Requests

- **ICF Level 3:** The Legislature, if required by AHCA, should fund and put into the rate plan an add-on or different rate calculation for individuals who are receiving Level 3 services. This would replace the current fixed figure that AHCA continues to use.
- **Waiver Transportation Rates:** Simplify and increase transportation rates for providers.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Rate Increase:** The Legislature funded a small rate increase last session; however, we are still far below the proposed recommendations from VR's rate study.
- **Project Search Funding:** A sustainable funding source is sought to keep the Adult Model Project SEARCH funded and to expand across the state. The current iBudget Waiver can be expanded to include the model as a viable employment training experience for individuals served by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), but funding would be needed to support the addition of this service model.

### Watch and Act Issues

- **Maintain Employment & Early Intervention Services Funding at least at the current level.** The Early Steps (Part C) programs are vital to children with disabilities to help them meet developmental milestones. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are vital to afford individuals with disabilities that want to seek employment the supports they need to achieve this goal.
- **Comprehensive Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Managed Care Pilot Plan.** Ensure the program provides the intended outcomes to both individuals with disabilities and providers.
- **Statutory Amendments:** The current service limitations of Supported Living should be removed. Any amendments to Chapter 393, F.S., must meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities:** Public policy changes should ensure that individuals with disabilities have the right to make informed decisions regarding employment, including the opportunity to choose their work settings. We are supportive of state policy that promotes gainful employment through state purchasing of commodities and services offered by RESPECT of Florida.
- **iConnect:** Ensure any updated language is going to enhance the outcomes for providers and clients.
- **Housing Issues:** Support funding for new housing and renovations dedicated to individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.