



Florida ARF 2023 Legislative Platform

Platform Issues

- **Increase iBudget Waiver funding for recurring operational and labor costs to offset cost increases and inflation.** A funding increase not limited to certain services and direct care staff previously making under \$15 per hour is needed. Providers have incurred additional expenses (e.g., gas, insurance premiums, and skyrocketing wages.) that have continued to increase with no fiscal relief, which has only been exacerbated during the past year as inflation has hit historic highs.
- **Protect Community ICF/IID Services.** Ensure ongoing appropriate funding for the Community ICFs by maintaining the 2022 Session proviso language in Line 220, which allows for recurring funding. This language is essential to mitigate another rate cut like we experienced in 2021.

Secondary Requests

- **The APD iBudget Waiver* should be added to the Social Services Estimating Conference (SSEC).** Budget forecasting by the SSEC would assist the Legislature to more accurately plan for and fund the iBudget Waiver.
- **A rate study for the APD iBudget Waiver is needed.** The last comprehensive rate study was conducted in 2003 by Mercer, nearly two decades ago. An updated rate study is needed to ensure programs are appropriately funded.

* The APD iBudget Waiver provides home and community-based supports and services to eligible persons with developmental disabilities living at home or in a home-like setting. The iBudget Waiver program is funded by both federal and matching state dollars.

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 in order 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.
- **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.
- **VR Services:** Oppose any mandates for competitive, unrestricted bidding for VR services impacting non-profit service providers.