

## Membership Value Statement: 2019

Florida ARF is a statewide, professional association that provides advocacy, information, and networking services for community agencies serving individuals with disabilities. We are a leader in the initiation of public policy change to promote and protect the interests of individuals with disabilities. Within the last year, Florida ARF accomplished the following:

- Successfully advocated for a \$28.7 million increase in rate funding for Direct Care Wages.
- Successfully advocated for a \$48.7 million increase to fund services for persons with unique abilities.
- Prevailed in supporting continuation of the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at approximately \$5.1 million.
- Prevailed in securing funding for Community ICF/IIDs to be funded at \$269 million which brings the appropriation up to meet the projected cost of care.
- Coordinated a comprehensive grassroots advocacy campaign featuring local community agency involvement including testimony at legislative committee meetings, legislative visits at community agency sites, legislative visits to the Capitol, and provided professional lobbying support for member approved issues.
- Established the first competency-based statewide apprenticeship for Direct Support Professionals to respond to a provider hiring crisis for direct care staff.
- Disseminated timely information including: *Issues Forum Breaking News* and *Issues Forum Grants* monthly, *Industry News* publications, *Capitol Breaking News*, and email alerts.
- Provided members with monthly updates on available grant and funding opportunities.
- Maintained an online library for members including work products, white papers, grassroots materials, and information to assist members with resolution of policy questions.
- Represented member interests on multiple state committees and workgroups such as the DeSantis-Nunez Advisory Committee on Health & Well Being, Governor's *Employment First* Initiative, Provider Rate Evaluation, and other workgroups.
- Provided testimony and represented member interests at multiple workshops and hearings on topics such as: Behavior Services, HCBS Settings, Eligibility for Services, iBudget Waiver Amendment, In-Home Subsidies, Medication Administration, Supported Living, and Termination, Suspension, and Reduction of Services that achieved multiple amendments to state agency policies and statutes based on member input.
- Provided the Governor's Transition Team and APD with systems deregulation suggestions.
- Developed proposed changes to the Medication Administration portion of the ICF Licensure Rule for 6-bed homes.
- Conducted Employment Outcomes Professional training to assist members and employment providers in achieving more competitive employment outcomes for individuals served.
- Provided networking opportunities for members featuring opportunities to interact one-on-one with APD and VR program directors.
- Served as information and referral resource for interested parties seeking providers and services in specific geographic areas.
- Provided multiple opportunities for members to network and share best-practice experiences.