

Membership Value Statement: 2017

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:

- Advocated for \$3.7 million in additional funding for the HCBS waiver waitlist to serve approximately 400 individuals with intensive needs that was funded.
- Successfully advocated for a slight rate increase for Adult Day Training (ADT), Residential Habilitation (Res Hab), Supported Employment, and Personal Supports providers which equates to about \$15 million with the inclusion of the rate increase for Nursing Services.
- Successfully advocated for \$11.2 million in continued rate relief for services such as Companion, Respite, and Personal Supports for 1:1 staffing ratios to cover implementation of the U.S. Department of Labor Home Care rule changes.
- Prevailed in supporting continuation of VR program and the addition of approximately \$1.9 million to current funding of \$5 million for the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program.
- Coordinated a comprehensive grassroots advocacy campaign featuring local community agency involvement including testimony at legislative committee meetings, legislative visits at community agency sites, and legislative visits to the Capitol. Also, provided professional lobbying support for member approved issues.
- 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 member agencies with resolution of policy questions.
- Represented Florida ARF member interests on multiple state committees and workgroups such as DD Waitlist, the Governor's *Employment First* Initiative, and APD workgroups.
- Provided testimony and represented Florida ARF member interests at multiple hearings on topics such as: iBudget administrative rules, APD Licensure rule, provider rate rules, Fair Hearings rule, Behavior Analysis rule, ICF/IID Handbook, and ICF/IID Reimbursement Plan.
- Communicated provider input into federal rules on HCBS waivers, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, DOL home care and overtime rules, and Medicaid Reform proposals.
- Held training sessions across the state on the Employment Outcomes Professional module 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 as requested.
- Successfully achieved multiple amendments to state agency policies and statutes based on member input.
- Served as information and referral resource for interested parties seeking providers and services in specific geographic areas.
- Led a Workforce Enhancement initiative to respond to a provider hiring crisis for direct care staff.