

Membership Value Statement: 2018

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 \$41 million in recurring funding to continue 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 and a rate increase for Adult Day Training, Residential Habilitation, Supported Employment, and Personal Supports.
- Prevailed in supporting continuation of the VR program and the approximately \$5.1 million in funding for the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program.
- Prevailed in securing funding for Community ICF/IIDs to be funded at \$266 million which brings the appropriation up to meet the projected cost of care.
- Successfully advocated for changes to the proposed requirements in the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' Medication Administration legislation.
- 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.
- Continued Workforce Enhancement initiative 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 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: iBudget Handbook, Incident Reporting, Medication Administration, provider rate rules, and the ICF/IID Reimbursement Plan.
- Conducted 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.
- Provided multiple opportunities for our members to network and share experiences.