



## Membership Value Statement: 2022

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:

- Prevailed in securing \$402,987,613 for iBudget rate increases for Residential Habilitation (Res Hab), Adult Day Training (ADT), Supported Employment, Personal Supports, Behavior Assistant, and Respite to increase Direct Care wages to a minimum of \$15.00 an hour.
- Prevailed in securing increased funding for Community ICF/IIDs of \$44,237,469 for the QAF, \$29,613,463 for an ICF rate increase (FY 21-22 rate cut restoration), \$18,322,025 for the Level of Care (Level 3) to serve individuals with behavioral challenges, and \$34,991,119 in order to adjust rates with the sole purpose of raising wages of Direct Care employees.
- Prevailed in securing modifications to the ICF proviso language on the rate calculation methodology.
- Prevailed in support of increased funding of the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at approximately \$11.3 million.
- Supported funding for the iBudget waitlist to serve approximately 1,100 individuals.
- Coordinated a comprehensive grassroots advocacy campaign and provided professional lobbying support for member approved issues. As a part of the campaign, the Association engaged a PR Firm to assist with publishing articles showcasing the need for increased funding for our members.
- Continued advocacy and education on the use of the 10% enhanced FMAP for HCBS waiver services to provide temporary relief to iBudget waiver providers.
- Continued operation of the first competency-based statewide apprenticeship for Direct Support Professionals to respond to a provider hiring crisis for direct care staff.
- Developed an Ad Hoc Workgroup to address the system changes to Adult Day Training services.
- Continued to provide APD and AHCA with program flexibility options to keep provider agencies whole while also continuing service offerings during COVID-19.
- Disseminated timely information including: *Issues Forum Breaking News* and *Issues Forum Grants* monthly, *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, The Arc of Florida Dental Workgroup, and other workgroups.
- Represented member interests before the Legislature and during workshops and hearings on various issues and topics impacting the industry to positively influence public policy changes.
- Provided networking opportunities for members featuring opportunities to interact with APD, AHCA, and VR program management.
- Served as information and referral resource for interested parties seeking providers and services in specific geographic areas.
- Provided opportunities for members to network and share best-practice experiences.
- Provided trouble-shooting assistance to assist members in navigating state policy compliance.