



Membership Value Statement: 2023

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 a significant funding increase for Community ICF/IIDs through modifications to the proviso language to ensure the previous increases were included in the rate setting. This resulted in an increase in the ICF/IID rates of 10.5%.
- Prevailed in securing a significant funding increase for Community ICF/IID Level 3 rates. The rate was increased by 40.5% to \$789.38, and it was made effective for the 22-23 fiscal year giving providers a retroactive payment.
- Prevailed in support of funding of the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at approximately \$8.3 million in recurring and non-recurring funds.
- Supported funding for the iBudget waitlist to serve additional individuals in need of services.
- 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 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 and retention crisis for direct care staff.
- Continued the Ad Hoc Workgroup to address the system changes to Adult Day Training services.
- Continued to provide APD and AHCA with program flexibility options and modifications to keep provider agencies whole while also continuing service offerings.
- 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 *Employment First Initiative*.
- 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.