



Membership Value Statement: 2024

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 the largest across the board rate increase for Home and Community-based Services through the iBudget waiver of \$195,768,884 which equated to 11%.
- Prevailed in securing a significant funding increase of \$31,874,528 for Community ICF/IIDs as well as a modification to the proviso language to remove the specific paragraph on Level 3 to not have to submit a budget amendment in order to get the funds released for this level of care.
- Supported proviso language to study alternative reimbursement rate methodologies for Adult Day Training (ADT) services provided under the iBudget.
- Supported the \$38,378,534 in funding for the Pilot Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.
- Prevailed in support of funding of the Adults with Disabilities (AWD) Program in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at approximately \$9.4 million in recurring and non-recurring funds.
- Supported the addition of \$64,782,137 in funding for the iBudget waitlist to serve additional individuals in need of services.
- Supported the iBudget waiver expansion by \$16,889,514 to serve the greatest number of individuals permissible under the appropriation from pre-enrollment category 6 who have a sibling in pre-enrollment category 3, 4, 5, or 6.
- Coordinated a comprehensive grassroots advocacy campaign which included two Legislative Fly-Ins and provided professional lobbying support for member approved issues.
- 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.
- Continue to provide APD, AHCA and VR with input on programmatic issues and concerns from a provider perspective to continue the operations of community programs through formal rule comments and informal meetings.
- Disseminated timely information including: *Issues Forum Breaking News*, *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 trouble-shooting assistance to members navigating state policy compliance and Medicaid denials.
- Provided networking opportunities for members featuring opportunities to interact with APD, AHCA, and VR leadership.
- 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.