

2025 LEGISLATIVE STAFFING



RATE INCREASE TO RETAIN, RECRUIT, AND SUPPORT DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (DSPs): Address minimum wage increase and increased cost of living which threatens service delivery.

INCREASE DSPs WAGES \$1 with an estimated \$44.6 million General Revenue (\$57.4 million Federal match) ¹

- ✓ This to allow providers to recruit and retain Direct Support Professionals (DSP).

ADDITIONAL COST CONSIDERATIONS:

Florida has experienced **SIGNIFICANT INFLATION** in terms of housing costs and other outlays of doing business. This makes it increasingly difficult for individuals and businesses to plan for the future and maintain financial viability.

- ✓ Providers, in a recent survey, stated the lack of funding has negatively impacted their ability to maintain services provided to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Recent notifications regarding the Medicaid unwinding process have forced providers to make **DIFFICULT CHOICES** regarding uncompensated care or ending critical services.

- ✓ Denying care to longstanding clients resulted in catastrophic consequences such as homelessness and loss of access to health and safety supports.

Significant **INCREASES IN ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDENS** placed on providers, such as Adult Day Training (ADT) and iConnect, have had substantial cost implications.

- ✓ Providers have had to hire additional staff solely dedicated to administrative compliance rather than billable direct client care activities.

¹ FFP for FY 2025-26 calculated from APD LBR. Understanding the Legislature has their own methodology regarding rates to address inflation and minimum wage increase.