

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



RATE INCREASE TO RETAIN, RECRUIT, AND SUPPORT DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (DSPs): Address minimum wage increase, new Department of Labor rules, and increased cost of living. According to the ANCOR Report "Crisis 2023," 95% of organizations providing services in 45 states faced moderate to severe staffing shortages and many had to turn away new referrals due to shortages or discontinue existing services.

✓ The Arc of Florida supports the investment in the Medicaid Waiver as expansion of services statewide is critical for families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

REDUCE THE AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES' (APD) WAITING LIST: A proposed waiver for transitioning students with I/DD out of schools is being considered and a new Pilot explored. Successful innovations and feedback from families and individuals with I/DD participating in these new programs is paramount.

✓ The Arc of Florida supports legislative and gubernatorial efforts to reduce APD's Waiting List for those with I/DD.

Individuals Enrolled on iBudget Waiver: 35,566

Individuals in Waiting List Categories: 21,967

Agency for Persons with Disabilities, June 2023

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Housing tailored to the I/DD population is crucial and continued discussions for next year's legislative agenda is a priority. Money from previous appropriations for housing for this vulnerable population is gone, and if capital isn't available, it will be difficult to purchase or build at current costs.

✓ The Arc of Florida supports the need for individuals with I/DD to live independently in their own community with dignity and choice.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR): Support implementation of the Public Consulting Group (PCG) rate study recommendations. In 2022, the VR Division commissioned the four-year phase-in plan rate study, which recommended an average 52% increase (\$28.6 million) for services.

✓ The Arc of Florida supports the phased approach outlined in the PCG report and other relevant findings.

