



Florida
Developmental
Disabilities
Council, Inc.

Statement on State and Federal proposals for Medicaid Block grants, per capita caps and budget reductions.

“To advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities”

Federal and state proposals on changes to Medicaid is in the forefront nationally. The Florida Developmental Disability Council (FDDC) is a statewide resource for policymakers on what is essential and should be included for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

FDDC supports policies that guarantee health care and support services for people with disabilities, and discourages any measures that would not sustain and provide for necessary health care coverage and supports. Any proposed changes to Medicaid, including Medicaid Block grants and per capita caps, must ensure that no reductions in health care and supports services occur for people with disabilities.

Medicaid provides services and supports that maintain the health, function, independence, and well-being of 10 million enrollees living with disabilities nationwide. Many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities depend on Medicaid for their basic health care and on Medicaid Waivers for therapies, in home supports and even employment services that traditional health insurance does not cover.

In 2014, there were almost 600,000 people with disabilities, nationwide, waiting for home and community based waiver services from Medicaid. There are currently over 20,000 waiting for these services in Florida. Any increase in the waitlist for services would be detrimental to Floridians with disabilities, who are already significantly impacted by Florida’s waitlist. These issues affect not only the individual with disabilities, but the entire family who often must forego employment in order to take care of the individual, resulting in lost wages and productivity and perpetuating the need for additional state and federal economic support.

The health and well-being of Florida’s most vulnerable people with disabilities must not be put at risk with any proposed changes to the system. For many people with disabilities, being able to access timely needed care is a life or death matter. Moreover, any changes to the current system must address adjustments for fluctuating health care costs, population growth, response to economic downturns, or natural disasters.

We urge lawmakers to offer a plan that ensures people with disabilities will have access to health care and support services that include durable medical equipment; rehabilitative, habilitative, mental health services; and preventative services to ensure the well-being of people with disabilities.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. (FDDC) is a 501(c)(3) state-wide not for profit organization federally mandated to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Established in 1971, FDDC has positively impacted programs and policies throughout state and local governments resulting in sustainable services for thousands of Floridians.