



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

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Legislative Platform Summary 2016

Employment First

The Council promotes a statutory foundation for the Governor's Executive Order for the Employment First initiative. This would provide guidance and support for the strategic action implementation plan developed by the Employment First Collaborative Team and Employment Partnership Coalition and agreed to by nine state agencies and organizations in an interagency cooperative agreement.

Transportation for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Council urges the Florida Legislature to provide resources for employment related transportation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver – a lifeline for individuals with developmental disabilities to ensure choice, independence and access to their communities

- The Council urges the Florida Legislature to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families who receive the Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver have stable and qualified service provider staffing for delivering waiver services. Providers need greater compensation. Today's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) iBudget Waiver reimbursement rates are on average 14.17% lower than they were in 2003!
- The Council urges the Florida Legislature to continue their support of a meaningful long-term commitment to eliminate the Individual Budgeting/Home and Community Based Services Waiver waitlist and to appropriate enough funding for any new individuals on the Waiver waitlist in categories three, four and five.

Deinstitutionalization for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- The Council asks that the legislature require the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to create and implement a comprehensive five year plan to significantly reduce the number of individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities who reside in Florida's remaining institutions.
- Florida must continue the directive stipulated in Florida Statute (F.S.) Chapter 393 of removing Individuals from unnecessary institutional placements and abating the use of large institutions.

Support Inclusive Postsecondary Education

The Council supports inclusive postsecondary education opportunities through degree, certificate, or non-degree programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and urges the legislature to establish statewide implementation of comprehensive transition programs.

Guidelines for the Prevention and Reduction of Restraint in the Public School System

- The Council supports a policy where physical restraint in the school system shall be only used as a last resort when there is a demonstrable and imminent physical danger to the student or others and implemented by staff and Resource Officers who have received the appropriate crisis prevention training.
- The Council opposes the use of seclusion, mechanical restraints and prone restraint entirely.
- The Council opposes restraint as a planned intervention in individual education plans for students with disabilities.

Support Early Steps, Florida's Part C/Early Steps Program

- The Council supports continuing the additional 2015 Early Steps funding for services and supports.
- The Council supports a state and local Early Steps infrastructure that is adequate to ensure the effective operation of this state's early intervention services and meets the federal guidelines for the program.
- The Council supports ensuring that appropriate services for eligible children are provided and that more of these services are provided in their natural environment.

Help Me Grow Florida

The Council supports funding for Help Me Grow Florida to expand and strengthen the Help Me Grow Network and System.

Children with Disabilities Who Have Medically Complex Conditions

The Council supports family life for children with medically complex conditions and the services that will enable all of these children to live, grow and thrive in a home with a family.

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