



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2019

1 PAY FAIR FOR CARE

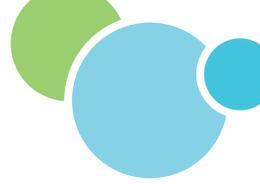
People with lifelong intellectual and developmental disabilities require a range of services to ensure their health, safety and success in community living. Direct Care providers are the lifeline. However, the rates paid to providers of these services are no longer adequate. Providers are faced with constant turnover. Families are often unable to find someone to provide the services their loved ones must have to be included in the community. Rates must increase to help strengthen this service system and maintain current services with a choice of providers.

Florida families and providers must be able to recruit and retain dedicated people to support the direct care needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Higher wages for individual personal support workers are needed to improve the availability of these service providers.

2 SUPPORT THE IBUDGET DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVER

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities continues to face the challenge of funding the increasing needs of current individuals on the waiver while funding services for those who are in crisis situations and those in high priority waitlist categories.

It is essential to fund the growth of the iBudget waiver and to fund services to transition individuals off the iBudget waitlist.



3 CONTINUE TO FUND AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council was successful in advocating for funding for some of the recommendations from the legislated Transportation Task Force in 2018. These grant projects address the issues faced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities: affordability, safety, inability to cross county lines and long travel times.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will urge the Florida Legislature to provide resources and continue alternative approaches for transportation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that were recommended by the Transportation Task Force.

4 WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Forty-six states have government programs that improve the ability for an individual with a developmental disability to work, keep vital health coverage and lower their dependence on government assistance. Currently, Florida does not have this type of program. Last year the Legislature required the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek approval for a federal waiver, a state plan amendment, or other federal authorization to provide a program called Working People with Disabilities, for adults who receive services under Florida's Medicaid waiver programs.

The Legislature needs to support the Working People with Disabilities Program to allow participants to work full-time without losing Medicaid waiver personal support services and therapies (not covered by traditional health insurance) that allow these individuals to contribute to the workforce.

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