



Statewide Advocate Agencies Address the Fair Wage Crisis for Direct Care Workers

For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, direct care staff is often the lifeline to healthy, successful lives within the community. However, due to low wages limiting access to trained and reliable direct care staff, the unfortunate reality is that many throughout Florida are not receiving the care they need or deserve.

Imagine an individual with cerebral palsy who depends on personal care assistance to get up in the morning and get ready for work. If no one is there to help, he or she stays in bed, sometimes for hours, until someone is available.

What about those who reside in a group home to live and learn? Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in small group homes depend on staff to assist them with their skills for daily living. Frequent staff turnover can make it difficult to live in a stable environment.



Whether due to unreliable staff or the inability to recruit and retain a provider at all, the current path is creating a harmful cycle for individuals, families and direct care workers.

The Pay Fair for Care initiative aims to break this cycle by cultivating a general understanding of the issue, bringing awareness about the importance of paying fair wages to direct care workers and inspiring legislative action.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC), the Arc of Florida and the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (Florida ARF) are partnering to shed light on the importance of direct care services and support for a fair wage. Through Pay Fair for Care, they are urging the Florida Legislature to consider the payment of fair wages and help ensure providers and families have access to trained and reliable caregivers.

Florida must support fair wages for direct care workers. Help make it happen by sharing campaign information with your friends and reaching out to your local representatives. You can also check fddc.org for campaign updates and materials. By being an active voice in your community, you can help Florida Pay Fair for Care.