



PAY FAIR
FOR
CARE

- Florida families and providers must be able to recruit and retain dedicated people to work with the direct care needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Higher wages for direct care staff are needed to resolve a shortage of direct care workers that has become a crisis and must be resolved..

BACKGROUND

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 for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members. However, the rates paid to providers of these services are no longer adequate. As a result, 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. For families, the combination of concerns about the quality of care, less provider availability and fewer service options poses a distinct threat to the health, safety and quality of life of individuals with disabilities. To help strengthen this service system, as well as maintain current services with a choice of providers, rates must increase.

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ISSUE

During both the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and its stakeholders worked on increasing iBudget waiver provider compensation. Although some progress was made with compliance of the Department of Labor rule and a small increase for several major services, systems change efforts targeted to increase specific direct care provider service rates and reimbursement is critical since this remains an essential and underfunded service.

The Arc of Florida and Florida ARF have joined the Council in the Pay Fair for Care Campaign.

