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.

**BACKGROUND**

Safe, affordable, and reliable transportation is a critical component to community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Research has shown that having access to the community is the key to employment, education and training, independence, and self-sufficiency.

Florida’s transportation delivery system is very complex. In addition to a lack of subsidies for public transportation, differences in local providers and provider availability are examples of issues that make it difficult to access and utilize available transportation services.

**ISSUE**

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council was successful in advocating for funding for two grants that address 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 Council wants to build on and sustain two transportation grant projects that were funded in 2018. One was a consultation to look into improving the way the Agency for Persons with Disabilities provides transportation to iBudget waiver recipients and the other project is a pilot door to door, on demand transportation program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This pilot will be available for individuals with developmental disabilities in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties.

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