

# Working People with Disabilities Program

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

## BACKGROUND

The choice between work and health care affects many people with disabilities. Without Medicaid waiver services, the individual with a disability may lose the ability to work because traditional insurance through employers may not be available or may not cover their therapy and personal care needs.

Individuals who work and have disabilities have limits on the amount of income they may earn in order to maintain their Medicaid waiver benefits. This can create a disincentive to employment. 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.

## ISSUE

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. Prior to implementation, the Agency is directed to provide a report on the estimated costs to the Medicaid Program and a status of the federal waiver, state plan amendment, or other required federal authorization. Implementation of the program is subject to legislative approval.



**For more information, contact:**

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