

# LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



**2023  
EASY READ**

*The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) works to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).*

*One way FDDC does this is to teach lawmakers about issues that are important to people with I/DD and their families.*



## HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES ARE BEST



People with I/DD and their families need lawmakers to invest in home- and community-based services.



These services help people with I/DD to live in their communities instead of expensive institutions.

To do this, FDDC supports a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for people with I/DD.



Florida's HCBS Medicaid waiver for people with I/DD is usually called the iBudget Waiver.



## PERSONAL SUPPORT PROVIDERS

Florida needs more specially trained workers to provide services for people with I/DD.

These workers are called Personal Support Providers (PSP).

In 2022, the pay rate for PSPs was raised to \$15 per hour.

The increase is supposed to attract and keep more people to this job.

The pay increase helped, but there may still not be enough PSPs.





## OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS



In some areas of Florida, there are shortages of other service providers:

- Support Coordinators who help people with I/DD plan and find their services
- Behavior Therapists who help people with I/DD with their behavior



## NEEDS NOT BEING MET

Many people with I/DD who need help with their behavior are not receiving the services they need.

Often people with I/DD who need help with their behavior are placed in hospitals or settings that don't meet their needs.

When they come out, there are no helpful services and supports available.





## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

FDDC wants lawmakers to assess the needs of people already receiving the iBudget Waiver as well as the needs of those needing the waiver.

This will help the Legislature set aside enough money to fund the iBudget Waiver.

FDDC also wants lawmakers to reduce the waitlist for iBudget services.



## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

FDDC wants lawmakers to:

- attract more people into jobs that provide services through the iBudget Waiver

*This means having higher salaries, more training, and better workplace practices.*

- hire more behavior therapists at good pay
- reduce the number of people hospitalized because of their behavior

*This means providing more money for Intensive Behavioral (IB) and Behavior-Focused (BF) group homes.*



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Margaret J. Hooper, Director  
of Public Policy and Advocacy**  
**[MargaretD@fddc.org](mailto:MargaretD@fddc.org)**  
**[www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org)**

