



Our Voices Matter

Floridians living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) must continue to have access to a stable service delivery system that includes the array of services and options needed to meet their specialized needs. A dependable system helps people with I/DD live and work in their communities and stay as independent as possible.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. urges policymakers to preserve both the iBudget and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Comprehensive Managed Care Program (ICMC). Having both options allows people with I/DD and their families to choose the program that best fits their long-term needs.

The iBudget program, managed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), has supported tens of thousands of Floridians for more than 15 years. While there is room to improve how the program operates, serves customers, and handles accountability, it continues to be an important part of community-based care.

We believe that it is extremely important that the Legislature provides enough funding, oversight, and direction to keep the iBudget working well and to make sure it stays a strong option in the years ahead.



Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Valerie Breen, Executive Director
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: 850-488-4180
Email: fddc@fddc.org
Website: www.fddc.org

Our Voices Matter

- **Commit adequate resources and oversight to the iBudget Program.**

We urge the Legislature to provide enough funding and oversight to keep the iBudget program strong. Without continued support, managed care could become the only realistic option as services and capacity in the iBudget program decline. People with I/DD and their families deserve real and reliable choices when deciding how to receive the care and support they need.



- **Restore confidence in the iBudget program.**

The Legislature and APD should also work together to improve how services are planned and how funds are managed. This will make sure resources are used as intended, expectations are clear, and oversight remains strong.

The iBudget program should be recognized as a modern Medicaid program that adapts to the changing needs of people with I/DD. Florida must plan carefully and fund both current and future needs in a fair and practical way.

- **Strengthen support coordination services.**

We must strengthen support coordination and increase the number of qualified support coordinators so that people can get the services they need without delay.

The iBudget Support Coordinator role is designed to make sure the needs of people with I/DD are met through meaningful choices about their services and who provides them. Without access to qualified support coordinators, new participants cannot receive the services they need and have already been approved to receive. This also limits the choices available to people who experience poor service coordination or delays in care.

- **Support and promote self-direction.**

The State of Florida should continue to support and encourage self-direction through the Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) option in the iBudget and the Participant Directed Option in managed care. The state should also look for ways to reduce the paperwork and challenges faced by people with I/DD and their families who choose to self-direct their care through CDC+. Other states have developed practical strategies to make this process easier, and Florida can review these ideas to find what works best here.