



Achieve with us.

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Legislative Platform 2020 Summary

The Arc of Florida is the first and most enduring of Florida's advocacy organizations, supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1961. The Arc family is found throughout our great state and has 38 Chapters, collectively serving or supporting thousands of people to achieve a better quality of life.

The Legislative Platform for The Arc of Florida is focused on making systemic improvements to address underlying issues that impact access to those fundamental services needed to increase personal independence and meaningful engagement in the community for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The platform will focus on five key areas, including Arc support for:

1. Increasing levels of funding to adequately serve Floridians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The Arc supports a living wage for those engaged in direct services to assure the health, welfare and safety of those served. Wages are not sufficient to recruit, hire and retain workers needed to deliver these critical services. The Arc is asking for an 11% rate increase for Adult Day Training to help address this need.
2. Maintaining and updating the iBudget Waiver as the best available and most efficient mechanism for delivery of services to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Managed care is not a feasible option for people who require ongoing and lifelong services that will increase as they and their caregivers age.
3. Access to affordable housing so that people are able to live inclusive lives in safe and secure homes as part of the community. The availability of affordable housing is decreasing as Florida's population grows and we must be proactive in assuring people have their essential living needs met.
4. Revising language for seclusion and restraint that promotes positive behavioral supports as a best and preferred practice, training on such practices for all educators, and limiting or eliminating the use of seclusion and restraint in educational settings.
5. Ending organ transplant discrimination. For decades, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been denied access to these life-sustaining treatments. The Arc supports legislation to help address the rampant discriminatory and arbitrary medical decision-making practices that create these barriers.

The Arc of Florida does not agree with or support efforts that would limit, delay or reduce services, including changes that revert to institutionalization, which is known to be an ineffective way to serve people and denies them the dignity we all deserve.

Additional Notes as of 1/31/2020:

- The Arc's Legislative Ask 2020 is included in Senate Appropriations, though currently listed at 2.6 million. The appropriations document is linked below. Reference row 61 for ADT. **Link:** https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/AHS/MeetingPacket/4851/8605_MeetingPacket_4851.pdf
- The Seclusion and Restraint Bills by Senator Book and Representative DuBose (versions SB 1644 and HB 1231) are advancing favorably. **Links:** <http://m.flsenate.gov/Bill/1644/2020> and <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=69502&SessionId=89>
- The Nondiscrimination in Organ Transplants Bills by Senator Bean and Representative Fischer (versions SB 1556 and HB 1179) are advancing favorably. **Links:** <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=69426&> and <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=69420>.
- State Funds for Housing Bills by Senator Mayfield and Representative Killebrew (versions SB 306 and HB 381) is supported in Governor DeSantis's Budget and advanced favorably by Senate, but House favors sweep of funds. **Links:** <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/306/?Tab=BillHistory> and www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/381.