

2026 Legislative Platform

Prepared by The Arc of Florida 8.28.25

The Arc of Florida is a statewide association representing more than 55 providers delivering essential supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. For decades, many over 50 years, our members have served as trusted partners in supporting Florida's most vulnerable citizens to be fully included in all aspects of their community. *We urge Florida's Legislature to consider the following funding and policy priorities which are critical to maintaining quality services, expanding access, and sustaining a strong provider network across the state.*

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Arc of Florida supports increased investments in the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. These services are the cornerstone of long-term support that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live, work, and thrive in their communities.

Provider Rate Adjustments

Families and caregivers depend on Home and Community-Based Services to support their family members in quality, safe, and sustainable community services. Rising operational expenses, including staff wages, health insurance, safety protocols, liability insurance, staff training and other compliance requirements, are straining our providers. Sustained rate adjustments are necessary to ensure that families continue to have access to high-quality, safe and person-centered services.

Transportation Reimbursement Rates

Transportation is a foundational service for individuals with I/DD enabling access to healthcare, employment, day programs, and access to community life. Current reimbursement rates do not reflect the actual costs of providing this essential service, particularly in rural areas, leading to widespread deficits for providers and service barriers for individuals. We support increased and equitable funding for safe transportation services.

POLICY PRIORITIES

The Arc of Florida advocates for policies that promote fairness, sustainability, and quality in service delivery. We ask the Florida Legislature to prioritize the following areas:

Standardized and Sustainable Rate Methodologies

Establishing consistent, statewide methodologies for critical supports and services will improve transparency, accountability, and equity. We recommend:

- A uniform transportation reimbursement methodology be established to ensure safe access to the community for individuals with I/DD as well as fair compensation for the providers.
- Adoption of a monthly/daily billing structure for Adult Day Training (ADT) services to help families experience more consistent day services. In order to expand ADT capacity and better meet client needs, providers must be reimbursed through a sustainable and predictable billing model that supports the service. Progress was made in the 2025 Legislative Session; we urge full implementation in 2026.



Achieve with us.

SYSTEM-WIDE PRIORITIES

The Arc of Florida supports helping more families receive the needed community supports and services for their loved ones.

Reducing the Waiting List

More than 22,000 individuals with I/DD in Florida remain on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' (APD) Waiting list. A comprehensive strategy and additional funding are needed to ensure these individuals are not forgotten. Reducing the Waiting list will not occur without sustainable rates to create additional service capacity for those still requiring services. We strongly support reducing the Waiting list and ensuring timely access to services.

Managed Care for Individuals with I/DD

With the statewide expansion of the Managed Care Pilot beginning in October 2025, Florida has the opportunity to design a family-centered, person-focused delivery system. The Arc of Florida supports long term safeguards that sustain quality programs and services to avoid reductions in provider rates.

The Arc of Florida stands ready to work with the Legislature, state agencies, and stakeholders to ensure individuals with I/DD and their families continue to live meaningful and self-directed lives in their communities.

For more information:

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