

CHALLENGES:

- **THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**, which distributed money to help recruit and retain staff, **ENDED**. The federal policy that relaxed staff to client ratios without compromising safety also ended, and will impact the capacity to serve clients.
- There still exists a **STAFFING CRISIS**. Without a rate increase, staff won't be able to be compensated, or hired, at the same levels as other Floridians in the workforce. In addition, the rates currently don't support the services offered. An increase would help stabilize providers so individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can choose services.
- \$100's of millions of dollars of **UNSPENT FUNDS** from previous years continue to pile up in the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' (APD) iBudget Waiver budget. These dollars could be used to help avert the looming crisis. The 2023 Legislature granted a 5% increase to all state workers with no corresponding increase for community non-profit programs that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- To sustain the iBudget waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Social Services Estimating Conference (SSEC) develops official forecasts of Medicaid caseloads and expenditures. State agencies are required to use these forecasts for planning and budgeting purposes.

SOLUTION:

In tracking current APD iBudget Waiver spending (disbursements vs appropriation) for FY 23-24, there will be significant surpluses at the end of the year unless expenditures accelerate dramatically. FY 23-24 saw the re-appropriation of unspent waiver dollars from previous years with the total up to **\$287 MILLION** in General Revenue. This is more than double the amount for FY 22-23 (\$117M).



These dollars could be spent for Individual and Family Supports (IFS) and provider assistance since there isn't proviso language to direct or limit its usage. Given the dire nature of capacity in the community to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are on the iBudget Waiver or APD's Waiting list, a rate increase is needed. A commitment from the Legislature to reduce deficit spending is critical. What we need now is a **FLORIDA RESCUE PLAN**.

As the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 23% over the last five years, an increase for non-wage operational costs for iBudget providers has not been addressed in even longer.

12% - \$98.9 million GR/\$136 million Federal match
11% - \$90.6 million GR/\$125 million Federal match
10% - \$82.4 million GR/\$113 million Federal match
9% - \$74.1 million GR/\$102 million Federal match
8% - \$65.9 million GR/\$90.7 million Federal match


The Arc
of Florida