

2027 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Adopted by the Board of Directors September 25, 2026

The Arc of Florida advocates for policy and funding changes that strengthen the supports and services for Floridians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) so they may live, work, and thrive in their communities.

PROVIDER RATE ADJUSTMENTS

Rising costs for staff wages, health insurance, liability insurance, and training and compliance requirements are outpacing HCBS reimbursement rates, straining providers' ability to deliver safe, quality, person-centered services. In addition to adjusting HCBS reimbursement rates, Florida needs clear, statewide quality standards so increased investment translates into consistently measurable, high-quality outcomes for individuals.

REQUEST: Fund sustained rate adjustments so providers serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can retain a qualified workforce, protect service quality, and expand capacity for the 15,000+ Floridians waiting for services. Develop statewide quality standards to guide and measure that investment.

STANDARDIZED TRANSPORTATION RATE METHODOLOGY

Transportation connects Floridians with intellectual and development disabilities to healthcare, jobs, day programs, and community life – but no statewide rate methodology exists for this necessary service. Each service provider must individually negotiate rates with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Reimbursements routinely fall short of actual costs, especially in rural areas where the need is the greatest, straining the ability to provide this critical component of care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

REQUEST: Establish a statewide, uniform, equitable rate methodology for transportation services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



MANAGED CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The statewide expansion of the Managed Care Pilot gives Florida the chance to build a family-centered, person-focused delivery system and provide another options for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Without statutory guardrails, however, capitated managed care can create financial incentives that erode provider rates, disrupt long-standing services, and destabilize the network individuals and families depend on.

REQUEST: Enact statutory protections — including rate floors, network adequacy standards, and a defined transition period — to sustain quality programs, protect provider rates from reduction, and prevent disruption of services as managed care expands.

HOUSING CHOICE AND SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES

Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities' Rule 65G-5.004(2)(b) bars Supported Living providers from also serving as a client's landlord. Adopted in 2003 — before Waiver Support Coordinators existed and before federal oversight caught up — it was meant to protect individuals from losing their home if a provider controlled the residence. However, this standard has not been updated since the passage of the 2014 federal HCBS Settings Rule, which provides stronger, enforceable protections that didn't exist when Florida's rule was written. While originally enacted to help protect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the outdated state rule now hinders individuals' and their families' freedom of choice to determine the safest, most appropriate living situation.

REQUEST: Repeal the outdated state rule and adopt the federal standard, giving individuals and families the freedom to choose housing arrangements that make them feel safe and stable.

