



Florida Self-Advocates Network'D (FL SAND) Representing 16 grassroots self-advocacy groups in Florida 2019 Legislative Priorities



As legislators we know you care about improving economic opportunity for all Floridians. Yet, there is one group of workers providing a vital service in the community that has gone without an effective raise in their wages for 14 years. They are the individuals who provide direct care services to Floridians with disabilities.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and FL SAND have been working on increasing iBudget waiver provider compensation for some time; and

while some progress has been made, long-term, systems change to increase direct care provider service rates and reimbursement is critical. Direct care work is quickly becoming transient employment, resulting in extremely high turnover, poor quality of care, a shortage of workers, and a burden to families.

Families, providers, and self-advocates must be able to recruit and retain dedicated people to provide for the direct care needs of persons with developmental disabilities so that they can live independently, avoiding the costly burden on taxpayers when forced to live in institutional settings.

TRANSPORTATION EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Most Floridians take transportation for granted. Getting to work, dinner out with friends, doctors' appointments, are no big deal. But for many people with disabilities, getting to work and the doctor requires planning, waiting, expense, and considerable disruption to their lives.

Barriers to local and specialized transportation services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities has been at the forefront for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council,

FL SAND, and other advocates for some time. Their efforts resulted in the formation of a transportation task force and some funding for its recommendations in 2018. Transportation Issues addressed in the recommendations include affordability, safety, inability to cross county lines, and long travel times.

FL SAND urges the Florida Legislature to provide resources and continue alternative approaches for transportation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that were recommended by the Transportation Task Force.

I AM YOUR CONSTITUENT, AND
MY VOICE MATTERS!



FL SAND is a network of 16 grassroots self-advocacy groups that represent people with disabilities throughout Florida. We advocate for disability rights and inclusion for all.

contactflsand@gmail.com / flsand.org