



Family Care Council Florida

Preserve the iBudget Florida Waiver by including APD in the Social Services Estimating Budget Conference and eliminate managed care options.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The iBudget Home and Community Based Waiver has exceeded the allotted budget of \$1.4 billion dollars for the past 4 fiscal years. Therefore, under the 2010 SB 1178 (Chapter 2010-101, Laws of Florida) which created Section 216.138, Florida Statutes, the Senate President and the House Speaker has the authority to request additional analysis using tools and models not generally employed by the consensus estimating conferences. In the APD and Agency for Healthcare Care Administration (AHCA) waiver redesign plan, one of the first requests is that the waiver program be included in the Social Services Estimating Conference.
- The Social Services Estimating Conference projects the cost for other Medicaid programs which the iBudget Waiver has not had the opportunity to be included.
- The Office of Economic & Demographic Research would then be able to assist by initiating the Statewide Policy Analysis Tools project to develop the protocols, procedures, techniques, and models necessary to perform the additional legislative analyses required by statute. The policy analysis techniques include cost-benefit, dynamic scoring, and other techniques appropriate for the format for the legislation being evaluated. With the reporting results, proposed lineages to appropriations and revenue forecasting processes (consistent with the constitutional balanced budget requirement) identify a clear and appropriate yearly cost plan for the estimated cost of the delivery of these services.
- As individuals with developmental and family members, we are all aware that costs can change and increase during any fiscal year and the projection of such cost increases are difficult to determine. Using this analysis tool will assist with a state-of-the-art model for evaluating the total fiscal and economic effect.
- Also, there is a tool called Long-Range Financial Outlook that can provide an opportunity to both avoid future budget problems and maintain more financial stability between state fiscal years.
- For more information regarding the tools and financial projections now reported please, visit the Office of Economic & Demographic Research website and link to Social Services Estimating conferences.
- It is the belief of the Family Care Council members that the outcomes of these reports will determine a projected cost increase in order to serve and protect the health and safety of individuals with disabilities in our state. Thus, by allowing these programs to project crisis cases and the statistics to prove the cost savings to the state, they would support keeping APD's iBudget waiver intact and NOT include our individuals on the Managed Care Program.



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Provide adequate recurring funds to fully fund the iBudget Waiver and adjust rates so providers can provide Florida's most vulnerable population with quality medically necessary services in the most appropriate setting.

DID YOU KNOW?

- iBudget Florida waiver is the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program that funds medically necessary supports and services to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in their communities.
- Florida ranks 46th in annual cost of care in a group home and 44th in annual cost for supported living. It ranks 49th in state rankings in the amount it spends on Medicaid for children and adults born with disabilities.
- Florida ranks 50th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of fiscal effort for total intellectual and developmental disabilities (IID) spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 despite having the 4th largest economy in the US. In fact, Florida's fiscal effort for total IDD spending has decreased 10% since 2007 and in FY2017 is 3.1% lower than it was prior to the Great Recession at less than \$2 per \$1000 of statewide personal income. The national average is \$4.40.
- People born with developmental disabilities or acquired them at a young age, rely on the iBudget Florida waiver to deliver medical and non-medical services that help them live at home and keep their job. Without these services, more people could be forced to leave their homes and move into institutions which would cost the state even more money. Florida spends on average \$35,000 annually to support a person who is living at home, compared to \$150,000 in an institution. If all 34,500 APD clients moved to institutional care would cost state \$3.4 billion to positively impact the individual receiving services, direct care provider/staff must be paid a competitive wage, with opportunities for career growth. Adequate training and retention of staff will minimize the negative impact of high turnover and ensure quality care for individuals. The annual turnover rate for direct care staff is over 40% causing less availability, fewer options and threatens health and safety of Florida's most vulnerable population.



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Provide additional funding to continue efforts to reduce Florida's waiting list.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some Floridians with developmental disabilities find themselves waiting over 10 years for supports and services from the Florida iBudget Medicaid Waiver. These services are necessary to promote and maintain their health and safety, provide medically necessary supports and services to delay or prevent institutionalization, and to foster principles of self-determination, participation, and inclusion in community living.
- Since the need for services far outpaces the current funding allocated by the Florida Legislature, there are 21,661 people (as of June 2019) on APD's waiting list for services until resources become available (i.e. approximately 40% are waiting, while 60% are receiving services). Approximately half those on the waiting list are under the age of 22 and are receiving Medicaid State plan services.
- The waiting list has seven priority categories based on an evaluation of current circumstances and/or intensity of need.

Category	Description	Total
1	Crisis	0
2	Children in Welfare System	2
3	Intensive Needs	940
4	Caregiver Over Age 70	237
5	Transition from School	156
6	Age 21 and Over	10,123
7	Age under 21	10,163
	Priority Not Yet Assessed	40

- Just a little 10% reduction in the waiting list would mean removing everyone in Categories 1-5 and about 800 from Category 6. Using the average cost plan, the estimated cost for the State of Florida would amount to about \$22 million in which the Federal government would match with \$26 million. To remove everyone in Categories 1-6 would require a 33% reduction in the waiting list.
- Without services, people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families can endure major financial, physical, and emotional burdens with lasting social and economic consequences for the state. Individuals with DD need services to enhance their quality of life as well as that of their family caregivers in order to achieve a fulfilling life. This impacts a vast majority of people with DD who live with their families. Without iBudget support, caring for individuals with DD can be very expensive and time consuming. Caregivers may have less time available to be employed when they are providing such assistance and reducing their ability to save for future financial needs. Studies have found that two-thirds



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of Florida's caregivers earn less than \$15,000 a year, yet the estimated direct cost for caring for their loved one with DD is \$8,000 per year, a figure which rises to over \$25,000 when including potential loss from their reduced earnings/labor force participation and reduced future income.

- Individuals on the waiting list are often unable to maintain their skills and often decline into crisis requiring increase funding to stabilize.
- Individuals with DD who request services often want more independent, productive lives, so they can also contribute to the community.
- Serving more people with DD means assisting more families who informally provide care. This will help reduce financial, physical, and emotional strains on caregivers, many of whom are aging.
- Transitioning individuals off the APD's waiting list helps maintain the provider infrastructure and quality and encourages new providers to work in the field of developmental disabilities.
- Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with DD may be entitled to receive home and community-based services in the least restrictive environment and most integrated settings. Keeping these individuals on the waiting list for years may not only violate right to access these services but also hinder their capacity, growth, and motivation to pursue a fulfilling life. Increased funding to substantively reduce the iBudget waiting list will result in Floridians with DD and their families having appropriate supports to prosper and enjoy inclusive community life.
- The United States Declaration of Independence states governments are created to protect every American's "unalienable Rights" which has been given to all humans by their Creator which is Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING.