



Achieve with us.

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*



Provider Rate Request for 2017 Legislative Session (December 2016)

Four years ago, the U.S. Department of Labor published their intent to enforce minimum wage and overtime rules for certain workers in the health care industry. Employees working under the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Medicaid Waiver program were impacted when enforcement of these provisions began last year.

The 2016 Legislature responded to what was a looming crisis for this Medicaid Waiver program by reviewing certain rates paid to providers under the waiver. The request from the provider community was a very much needed 14% increase. The 2016 Legislature responded with adjustments to certain rates to meet the minimum wage requirements out of non-recurring funds as well as an across the board increase for other services.

The Arc is grateful for the rate increases in the 2016 session. While some of the crisis was avoided, **APD is still experiencing a mass exodus of providers, leaving families trying to find services.** The 2016 rate increase was approximately 3.5%. While the remaining 11% from the 2016 request is still needed and funds must be recurring, providers are facing an additional crisis in workers compensation increases of up to 14.9%.

As evidenced by media stories this year, individuals cannot always find providers in their area to meet their service needs.

The Arc is seeking the remaining 11% in rate increase in the 2017 session.

The community based service delivery system saves individuals from more costly entitlement

services such as the state institutions. The average annual cost of institutional placement is \$120,000 while the average cost plan for persons on the waiver in the community is \$30,000.

While we continue to support additional funding to take individuals off of the waiver waitlist, we must adequately fund the provider rates in order for services to be available when the waiver slot is offered to a family. These two initiatives must go hand in hand.

Our request is to increase the following provider rates under the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver by 11%:

Adult Day Training for ratios that are 1 to 10, 1 to 5 and 1 to 1.

Residential Habilitation Training for all levels at 11%

Personal Supports for all categories at 11%.

We must also have continued funding for the 3.5% funding increase from last year.

**For further information or questions regarding this request please contact:
Bobbi Wigand, Executive Director Victory Living Programs at 954-616-1074 or
Deborah Linton, CEO at The Arc of Florida at 850-728-2747**