



Florida
Developmental
Disabilities
Council, Inc.

GOALS & OUTCOMES

Our Five-Year State Plan in Review
2017 - 2021

TRANSPORTATION

Goals & Outcomes

1

Develop and implement a minimum of three sustainable transportation solutions.

2

Execute a minimum of one infrastructure change, resulting in increased access to safe and affordable transportation.

Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of \$708,000 leveraged an additional \$31,250,000 of support for innovative transportation projects, leading to increased safe and affordable transportation options.



Legislative Impact

Transportation Network Companies (TNC), including Uber and Lyft are now authorized to provide non-emergency transportation services to persons receiving Medicaid; drivers and prospective drivers are now required to undergo background screenings; and additional dollars were awarded to implement Innovative Service Development projects, increasing access to several transportation options for persons with disabilities in several counties.

Making a Difference



232,813 Unique Trips

via Hillsborough Area Transit Authority (HART), the Treasure Coast and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority transportation projects



1 Self-Advocate

appointed to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in September 2019



21 Counties

began implementing The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged's Innovation and Service Development project in 2020.



EMPLOYMENT

Goals & Outcomes

1

Increase the number of individuals gaining employment at or above minimum wage by 25% over the established 2014 Employment First baseline data.

2

Since 2014, Florida's Employment First efforts exceeded the number of individuals gaining employment at or above minimum wage by 48% over baseline data.



Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of nearly \$2.8 million leveraged a total of \$4,550,000 in state appropriations for the Employment Enhancement Program (EEP) over the life of this state plan.



Legislative Impact

Funding was appropriated for the EEP in varying allocations to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to help individuals on the waiver waiting list obtain jobs and maintain employment; the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act of 2021, will result in a system-wide approach to improving equity and access to workforce training and education for all Floridians with an increased focus on underserved populations.

Making a Difference



2,445 Individuals

were educated or trained through the Council's employment efforts in practices designed to improve employment outcomes.



1,703 Individuals Employed

through APD's EEP and Rural Routes to Employment initiative.



78.8% Employment Rate

for 825 Project SEARCH Youth Model participants was achieved over the life of this state plan. Florida has 41 Project SEARCH sites which represent the greatest number of sites in the nation.

ELEMENTARY THROUGH POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION

Goals & Outcomes

1

Achieve a minimum of four new improvements to transition services that assist students from elementary through post-school transition.

2

Improve or develop two or more policies or practices to assist students in attaining meaningful post-school outcomes with adequate services and supports.

Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of \$2,193,000 leveraged nearly \$12,285,000 in support for inclusive postsecondary programs in Florida's Career and Technical Education centers, the Florida College System and the State University System.



Legislative Impact

In 2017, Florida career and technical centers were deemed eligible for federal funding under the Higher Education Opportunity Act, contributing to seven career and technical education programs and six additional programs at state colleges. House Bill 173 was passed during the 2021 legislative session and resulted in the most substantive changes to secondary transition in more than 20 years.

Making a Difference



23,200 Families

benefitted from information on how to better navigate the pre-kindergarten through postsecondary system and advocate for more inclusive opportunities through access to the Council's First Steps Guide.



87 Unduplicated Students

enrolled at the Robert Morgan Educational Center in Miami-Dade. Fifty-seven students earned at least one occupational completion point (OCP) in their career certificate program, 42 students were full program completers and 10 students remained in the program for another year.



198% Increase Reported

in enrollment in the Florida College System by students who identify as having Autism and as Hispanic or Latino.



SELF-ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP

Goals & Outcomes

1

Influence a minimum of 250 Floridians with I/DD and a minimum of 100 family members or allies who are not currently participating in leadership and advocacy to participate in leadership, advocacy and systems change activities in culturally diverse or cross-disability coalitions.

Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of over \$4 million in the leadership initiatives emerging from Florida SAND and Partners in Policymaking were instrumental in state and federal appropriation of funding in the amount \$2,474,255,124 reflected in the Transportation, Workforce, and Broad Systems Change goals, as well as attainment of the Working People with Disabilities Program described in the Self-Advocacy Systems Change goal.



Making a Difference



848 Self-Advocates

and 240 family members were reported as participating in Council supported activities under the Self-Advocacy Leadership Goal designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems.



380 Self-Advocates

and 199 family members indicated that they were engaged in advocacy activities.



193 Self-Advocates

and 148 family members indicated that they served on cross-disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies, and/or are serving in leadership positions.



235 Self-Advocates

were reported as members in 19 Florida SAND groups involved at the local grassroots level with self-advocacy in 2020. Updated numbers will be available in 2022.

SELF-ADVOCACY SYSTEMS CHANGE

Goals & Outcomes

1

Secure at least one systemic change to federal and/or state statutes, rules, policies, or procedures designed to mitigate the income limits imposed on people with I/DD in federal and state programs and restore their ability to independently control their income.



Legislative Impact

- In 2018, the Legislature directed the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) to develop a report on the estimated costs and status of obtaining a federal waiver, state plan amendment, or other required federal authorization.
- In 2019, AHCA was legislatively directed "to seek federal approval for a federal waiver, a state plan amendment or other federal authorization to provide a program called Working People with Disabilities, for adults with developmental disabilities who receive services under Florida's Medicaid Waiver programs and authorized to implement the program upon federal approval..."
- In 2020, the Working People with Disabilities Program was approved and implemented.

Making a Difference



550% Increase Was Secured

for the monthly income limit of the Federal Benefit Rate for individuals with earned income through paid employment. Cash assets can be up to the amount of \$13,000 for a single individual and \$24,000 for a couple.



Working People with Disabilities

Program allows participants to have a retirement account recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.



13,397 People Enrolled in Waivers

stand to benefit from the Working People with Disabilities Program that became effective July 1, 2020.



HOUSING

Goals & Outcomes

1

Attain a minimum of one systemic change to statutes, rules, policies, or procedures designed to improve choice and provide for financial support for safe, affordable, and inclusive housing with access to support services for individuals with I/DD.

Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of \$1,160,000 leveraged a total of \$250,000,000 for affordable housing programs.



Legislative Impact

\$250 million in CARES Act funding for rental and mortgage assistance was allocated to affordable housing programs in 2020. These funds enabled housing program administrators to activate their disaster strategies with guidance from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and assistance from the Florida Housing Coalition, helping local communities to respond to housing emergencies in terms of keeping families out of homelessness by staying in their rental housing and in their homes.

Making a Difference



147 People Were Trained

during virtual webinars to effectively participate in Consolidated Planning meetings. Ninety-six had the desire to participate in Consolidated Planning meetings and advocate for long-term systems change. Fifty-one local government staff representing 30 entitlement communities and 20 counties across the state participated in training.



2 Training Guides

were developed and made available to individuals with disabilities, families, and other stakeholders to assist them in engaging effectively in local planning processes surrounding HUD funds.

WORKFORCE

Goals & Outcomes

1

Make one or more improvements to practices, services, and compensation for community-based service providers to ensure that individuals with I/DD have access to, and receive services and supports from, a sustainable, qualified provider base.



Dollars Leveraged

The Council's investment of \$629,000 leveraged \$907,905,870 over the life of this state plan impacting compensation and Direct Support Provider rate increases in various capacities.



Legislative Impact

- \$4.4 million was directed to personal supports, residential habilitation, adult day training and supported employment rate increases.
- In 2019, the Florida Legislature and Governor approved additional funding for a rate increase for providers of Residential Habilitation.
- In 2020, the Florida Legislature reimbursed the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' deficit with an appropriation of \$241 million.
- In 2021, the Council successfully advocated for Federal Rescue Act dollars to be pursued for home- and community-based services that would otherwise have been left on the table.

Making a Difference



2 Training Guides

for direct support providers are now available that include Florida Direct Support Professional Core Competencies, a new competency-based online curriculum, and a Recruitment and Retention Best Practices Guide.



192 People Were Trained

through DD Awareness Day, Pay Fair for Care educational activities and in the Workforce Collaborative Training Initiative competency-based curriculum.



BROAD SYSTEMS CHANGE

Goals & Outcomes

1

Achieve a minimum of six systemic changes to statutes, rules, policies, or procedures at the state, regional or local levels designed to improve community inclusion for individuals with I/DD and the outcome of addressing one or more emerging issues or emergencies in a timely manner through Council activities.



Dollars Leveraged

As a direct outcome of the Council's work, \$1,535,099,254 in state and federal dollars were secured that will improve community inclusion.



Legislative Impact

As a direct result of the Council's work over the span of 5 years the following was secured:

- Nearly \$129,300,000 to remove individuals from the iBudget home- and community-based Medicaid waiver waitlist
- \$1,809,000 for Help Me Grow recurring funds
- Over \$5 million for children's services and technological enhancements
- \$241 million to address the changing needs of individuals served on the waiver
- \$58 million to serve individuals with significant additional needs
- \$1.1 billion in Federal Rescue Act dollars to support home- and community-based services

Making a Difference



2,658 People Educated

or trained through the Council's Broad Systems Change efforts.



1,050 Stakeholders

including individuals with I/DD and families were engaged in APD Redesign efforts. Thousands stand to benefit from the Council's legislative achievements attained.



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