FLORIDA’S FISCAL EFFORT RANKS SECOND TO LAST FOR TOTAL IDD SPENDING

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Over the past 40 years (FYs 1977 – 2017) total adjusted spending for publicly funded programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the state of Florida have increased an average of 4.1% per year. Despite these increases, Florida ranks 50th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of fiscal effort for total IDD spending in FY 2017 (see page 2 of this brief) despite having the 4th largest economy in the US.ii In fact, Florida’s fiscal effort for total IDD spending in FY2017 is 3.1% lower than it was prior to the Great Recession.iii

Fiscal effort for total adjusted IDD spending in Florida for FY 2017 remains below that of pre-Great Recession levels.

Florida ranked 50th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in fiscal effort for total IDD spending in FY 2017. Fiscal effort is spending for IDD services per $1,000 of aggregate statewide personal income.
In 2017, Florida ranked as the third most populous state in the nation with nearly 21 million residents. Of that 21 million, 25% (5.2 million) were estimated to be 60 years or older. Florida also ranks third in the nation in terms of the percentage of residents over the age of 60.

In 2017, there were an estimated 472,644 people with IDD in the state of Florida, 75% (352,726) of whom live with a family caregiver. Of the estimated 352,726 family caregivers, 31% (110,955) were over the age of 60 years. A recent survey of Florida families confirms there is a growing number of aging caregivers; 32% of survey respondents indicated they were 60+.

In FY 2017, only 6% (19,463) of the 352,726 family caregivers who had a person with IDD living in their home received services from the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The number of these families receiving supports dropped 2.6% between FYs 2016 - 2017. In June of 2019, there were 21,661 individuals on a waitlist for IDD services.

★ Florida ranks 3rd in the nation in both population and residents over the age of 60.
★ 75% of people with IDD in Florida live with a family caregiver and 31% of those family caregivers are over the age of 60.
★ Only 6% of Florida’s family caregivers received supports from the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities in FY 2017.
★ There are 21,661 individuals on a waitlist for IDD services in Florida.
Fiscal effort is spending for IDD services per $1,000 of aggregate statewide personal income, allowing for comparison across states while controlling for state wealth.


Agency for Persons with Disabilities (2019, June 3). Individuals on the waiting list by priority group. ABC database. Tallahassee: Author.


The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project is a national longitudinal comparative study of financial and programmatic trends in spending on supports and services for people with IDD in the United States. It is a Longitudinal Data Project of National Significance and receives funding from the Administration on Community Living. For additional information visit www.stateofthestates.org or email us at stateofthestates@cu.edu.

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