



Impact of the 2024 Legislation for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

The legislation will be enacted after the Governor's approval.

Legislative Action	Positive Impact
Budget Items	
Dual Diagnosis Mobile Treatment Pilot Funding for Broward, Orange, Leon, and Hillsborough counties - \$6.5 million	Mobile Crisis Units will include at least one person, trained to work with individuals with a mental illness and a developmental disability, to reduce involuntary placement (i.e., Baker Acts) in emergency rooms and crisis stabilization units. Training will be provided for family members and group home staff in handling behavioral and mental health crises.
Pre-Enrollment (crisis waitlist) funding for the iBudget waiver - \$65 million	Funding provided to expand the Home-and Community-Based Services Waiver by removing the greatest number of individuals in crisis (including those in child protective services) under this additional funding.
SB 1758 includes funding for services in the iBudget waiver for some non-crisis categories - \$39 million <i>Signed by the Governor</i>	SB 1758 includes the following budget provisions. First, the bill reduces the age requirement of a client's caregiver in Pre-Enrollment Category 4 from 70 years of age to 60 years of age or older. This will allow a higher number of individuals to be included in Category 4 of the pre-enrollment prioritization list. Second, a total of \$39 million is appropriated to offer iBudget waiver services to the greatest number of individuals permissible under the appropriation from Pre-Enrollment Categories 3, 4, and 5, including individuals whose caregivers are age 60 or older in Category 4.
Inclusion of siblings who can come off the waitlist this year - \$17 million	This funding is provided to expand the Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver by providing services to the greatest number of individuals permissible under the appropriation from pre-enrollment Category 6 who have a sibling in pre-enrollment Category 3, Category 4, Category 5, or Category 6.
10% universal rate increase for all iBudget waiver providers - \$196 million <i>Signed by the Governor</i>	The 10% universal rate increase for all iBudget waiver providers passed in SB 7016, the Live Healthy bill. This funding could stabilize the iBudget waiver workforce.
Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program in Region I	Funds are provided to the Agency for Health Care Administration to support capitation payments for individuals enrolled in a pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities that was

<p>(Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) and Region D (Hillsborough, Manatee, Highlands, Hardee, and Polk Counties) -\$38 million</p>	<p>initiated last year. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide eligibility for enrollment on the pilot.</p> <p>Funds are provided to support the enrollment of individuals in Region I and Region D who are currently on the waiting list for Home- and Community-Based Waiver services at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and who volunteer to participate in the pilot program.</p> <p>AHCA shall develop comprehensive services coverage including general Medicaid health benefits, the community services described in the iBudget waiver, and the long-term care plan benefits from the waiver for seniors served by Elder Affairs.</p>
<p>Dental services for individuals with developmental disabilities - \$11,500,000 million</p>	<p>Funding for dental services in the event the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is unable to competitively procure a contract with a nonprofit organization for a statewide dental services program for those with developmental disabilities, funds shall be used by the agency to administer the program.</p>
<p>Adult Pathways Waiver Planning and Actuarial Study for a Capitated Waiver Option - \$300,000</p>	<p>The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will conduct an actuarial analysis after provider and partner input to determine the appropriate annual per-person cap for an Adult Pathways Waiver. This waiver would offer a limited array of services to help address services needed for individuals as they transition to adulthood. The agency shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than December 1, 2024.</p>
<p>iConnect System for APD -\$3,761,926</p>	<p>The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will continue implementation and enhancement of the iConnect system for the purpose of providing electronic visit verification of service delivery to recipients by providers, and electronic service authorizations for Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver services.</p> <p>\$100,000 shall be used to contract with an independent software quality assurance and testing provider to engage with stakeholders and provide an extensive assessment of the iConnect project by March 1, 2025. APD will not begin provider compliance monitoring or recoupment of funds during the fiscal year.</p>
Bills	
<p>Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals <i>Signed by the Governor</i></p>	<p>Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals will be designated when they meet certain criteria and AHCA will designate four named hospitals and award each behavioral health teaching hospital funds for up to 10 new residency slots and for workforce development programs.</p>

	<p>The four hospitals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tampa General Hospital, in affiliation with USF. • UF Health Shands Hospital, in affiliation with the University of Florida. • UF Health Jacksonville, in affiliation with the University of Florida. • Jackson Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with the University of Miami. <p>The Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce will be established within the Louis de la Parte Florida Institute for Mental Health at the University of South Florida. The Center will perform original research, policy analysis, and develop and share best practices that advance the behavioral health professions. This was a recommendation of the Council’s <i>Reducing the Shortage of Behavior Therapists project</i>.</p>
Supported Decision-Making Authority	<p>Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is an alternative to guardianship and guardian advocacy that lets adults with disabilities (decision-makers) make their own decisions with the support of people they trust. These people called “supporters” cannot make decisions for adults with disabilities, but they can help decision-makers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping them understand and explore options. • Explaining the risks and benefits of options. • Assisting with getting information. • Giving guidance and ideas. • Helping them communicate and carry out a decision.
Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities <i>Signed by the Governor</i>	<p>There will be changes for the membership and duties of the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged and improvements to transportation services for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>1) New responsibilities of transportation service providers will include driver training for those who transport persons with disabilities. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will establish requirements for training of transportation staff who are providing direct services to clients of the agency.</p> <p>2) Providers will establish reasonable time periods between a request for service and the arrival of the transportation service provider.</p> <p>3) The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged shall establish model procedures for transportation service providers to receive and investigate reports related to adverse incidents.</p>

	<p>4) There are two reports due to the legislature next year, on model policies and procedures for paratransit and individuals with disabilities.</p>
<p>Employment of Individuals with Disabilities <i>Signed by the Governor</i></p>	<p>There are new requirements for the collection and sharing of employment data between multiple agencies for the interagency cooperative agreement under the Employment First Act. The Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help will issue an annual statewide report. This legislation is important to the Council because FDDC initiated the Employment First Act, and the intent is that data collection will lead to ways to provide more job opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.</p>
<p>Home-and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver Program <i>Signed by the Governor</i></p>	<p>The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) will develop and implement an automated, electronic application process for crisis services. This deletes the requirement that application for services be made to the agency in the region in which the applicant resides. Also, APD will educate new waiver recipients about the Consumer Directed Care Plus waiver.</p> <p>This legislation reduces the age requirement of a client’s caregiver in Pre-Enrollment Category 4 from 70 years of age to 60 years of age or older. This will allow a higher number of individuals to be included in Category 4 of the pre-enrollment prioritization list. Second, \$38 million was appropriated to offer waiver services to the greatest number of individuals permissible from Pre-Enrollment Categories 3, 4, and 5, including individuals whose caregivers are age 60 or older in Category 4. Care navigation services will be offered for voluntary participation at the time of application and as part of any eligibility or renewal review. The goals of care navigation are to create a seamless network of community resources to support a client in daily living, community integration, and achievement of individual goals.</p> <p>The Agency for Health Care Administration and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, in consultation with other stakeholders, will jointly develop a plan for the administration, finance, and delivery of home and community-based services through a new home and community-based services Medicaid waiver program.</p>
<p>Designation of a diagnosis on motor vehicle registrations <i>Signed by the Governor</i></p>	<p>Motor vehicle owners or registrants may designate on their application form for motor vehicle registration that they have been diagnosed with or are the parent or legal guardian of a child or ward who has been diagnosed with a developmental disability or psychiatric disorder. The registrant will be coded as SAFE which means that someone in the vehicle may not act in a predictable way. This designation can be removed upon request.</p>