



Florida
Developmental
Disabilities
Council, Inc.

Plain Text

Legislative Platform 2025



The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) be part of their communities.

Each year, the FDDC decides upon projects they will work on to help achieve this mission.

**This document covers some of the
FDDC's plans for 2025.**



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“Our Care Matters”

One way the FDDC works to help people with I/DD is by educating others about issues that are important to people with I/DD and their families.

This year, the FDDC will share a video series called “Our Care Matters.” These videos show real stories about people with I/DD. The goal is to help everyone understand what families with I/DD go through and how things can be improved for them.



In addition, this year the FDDC will focus on three specific areas where people with I/DD need help. They are:



- 1 Finding Services**
- 2 Living at Home and in the Community**
- 3 Aging Caregivers**

Recommendations

The FDDC is focused on these three areas where people with I/DD need help:

1 Finding Services:

The FDDC wants to make it easier for families to find the services they need. Right now, it can be confusing because there are many places to look. There should be one simple way to find all the information.



The FDDC also wants services to be easy to choose from and always up to date.

2 Helping Older Caregivers:

Many older people with I/DD live at home with family members who are also getting older. Florida has a lot of people waiting for help with Medicaid home services.



The FDDC wants to create a system to help both caregivers and people with I/DD as they get older. This can be achieved by partnering with other organizations that specialize in aging populations.

Recommendations

3 Living at Home and in the Community:

Medicaid helps people with I/DD live at home instead of in big institutions. The FDDC wants better help for families to choose the best services. It's important to pick the right place to live as needs change. The FDDC also wants to make sure people get the right support to stay safe and healthy.

One way to do this is by keeping Florida's Consumer Directed Care waivers, which offer more choices in choosing service providers at a lower cost. This is especially helpful in rural areas with fewer options.

Individuals with I/DD using state waivers should be able to get important services, like personal support and behavioral services, to keep them safe. The FDDC advocates for a strong and stable workforce of service providers.

Sometimes, people who have both I/DD and mental health problems go to hospitals when they don't need to. The FDDC is trying to find ways to help more people stay at home, even when they are having behavior problems. For example, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is trying out having experts in developmental disabilities on mobile crisis teams. These teams will help keep people with I/DD safe in their homes during mental health crises.