

2025

Legislative Priorities

POLICY PRIORITIES

OUT-OF-HOME RESPITE FOR CHILDREN (SF 446/ HF 728)

Problem

In 2020, a change was made to restrict Out-of-Home Respite for children to only licensed settings. This change has limited the options families have for accessing Respite services and reduced the amount of Respite for children used across the state.

Solution

ARRM's solution will allow Out-of-Home Respite to be provided in an unlicensed setting when certain regulatory requirements are met by both the provider overseeing the service and the family providing the Respite.

BEST LIFE ALLIANCE WAGE INCREASE FOR DSPs AND SUPERVISORS (SF 402/ HF 382)

Problem

Despite important investments made by the legislature in past years, wages for both Direct Support Professionals and Supervisors who work in disability waiver services remain too low to attract and retain qualified staff.

Solution

ARRM, along with the Best Life Alliance coalition, proposes to increase the Competitive Workforce Factor to 16.7% and amend the SOC code used to set the Supervisor Wage in the Disability Waiver Rate System to allow for higher wages.

INDIRECT BILLING FOR IHS SERVICES (SF 400/ HF 1095)

Problem

The Individualized Home Support (IHS) tiered services are services that support people who are living independently, in their own homes. Currently, a provider can only bill for time that is spent face-to-face or through remote contact with an individual, causing the service to be unsustainable.

Solution

Allow for some services to be billed when the provider is not face-to-face with the individual under the IHS Tiered services.

FAMILY FOSTER CARE RATE TIER DELAY (SF 2297/ HF 1894)

Problem

On January 1, 2026, Family Foster Care services will no longer be paid through the Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS) and will move to a flat rate tiered payment system. This move will cause drastic cuts in some rates and force many providers to no longer provide services.

Solution

Delay the Family Foster Care rate tiers to 2029 and create a task force to make recommendations on alternative rate structures for Family Foster Care services.

ARRM POLICY BILL (SF 401/ HF 381)

Problem

Providers face many challenges in supporting individuals who need higher support, both in their housing needs and DWRS rate exception needs. These challenges result in many providers being unable to support someone who cannot live with others or requires a higher rate exception. ARRM is bringing forward a slate of policy solutions to help address those barriers including:

Solution

- Allow providers to negotiate with their County for a higher Housing Support rate for individuals who cannot live with others.
- Request a waiver amendment from CMS that allows property damage to be reimbursed using existing dollars in the Environmental Accessibility Adaptations fund.
- Establish a 30-business-day timeline for lead agencies to process Service Authorizations.
- Require stakeholder collaboration through Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS) Quarterly meetings on the process and forms providers use in requesting rate exceptions, creating collaboration between the provider community and the Department of Human Services.
- Allow a rate exception to stay in place if the individual's Case Manager and the support team determine that the removal of the rate exception will harm the individual's well-being.

TECHNOLOGY GRANT (SF 1177/ HF 1166)

Problem

Remote support through technology is an important piece of the future of disability services, however, there continues to be misunderstanding and a lack of information about the options available to people with disabilities and how technology can support people in their day-to-day lives.

Solution

ARRM proposes establishing a \$500,000 grant appropriation for Fiscal Years 2027-2031, administered through the Department of Human Services and awarded to an applicant to educate and advance the use of assistive technology and remote supports.



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