



## ST. LOUIS ARC – 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### STATE FUNDED SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Strengthen the community based provider network by enhancing rates for services to people with disabilities.

- Allocate a minimum of 3% cost of living appropriation for DD/DMH Community Providers. Over the previous 6 years there has been only one increase for community providers.
- Fund community-based provider rebasing. A history of inconsistent rate increases has resulted in historical rates for some providers that are 40% less than the standard current rates.
- Support increases in Missouri Department of Mental Health budget to address reducing the of wait list for services and increase for Medicaid Waiver services such as day programs, community residential care and community supports.

### EARLY INTERVENTION

- Protect Early Intervention by continuing to strongly support mandatory Early Childhood Special Education services for all eligible Missouri children and supporting the State of Missouri's participation in IDEA which provides Early Childhood Special Education Services.
- Support implementation policies through the First Steps Program that include using the appropriate therapists with adequate frequency to implement the therapies recommended through the Individualized Family Service Plan.

### EMPLOYMENT

- Support continued appropriation of necessary state funding to maximize federal match dollars to Missouri for Vocational Rehabilitation Services to fund an increase in the number of people with disabilities in the work force and reduce dependency on public assistance.
- Support incentives for businesses that hire individuals with developmental disabilities at minimum wage or above.
- Require those doing business with the state of Missouri, both contractors and subcontractors, to affirmatively recruit, hire, train and promote qualified people with disabilities with a goal of 7 percent of each job group in their workforce going to qualified individuals with disabilities similar to laws that have long been required to promote workplace equality for women and minorities to follow the fair and reasonable standard that they not discriminate in employment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or status as a protected veteran.

### HEALTH CARE

- Advocate for increased access to affordable, appropriate health care that includes dental, eye and mental health care including increased asset limits for Medicaid eligible individuals with developmental disabilities as part of Medicaid transformation.

### BULLYING, HARRASMENT, SCHOOL BASED VIOLENCE

- Support efforts and education related to preventing and stopping bullying, harassment and violence towards individuals with developmental disabilities in schools.

Legislative initiatives are designed to support St. Louis Arc's philosophy that all individuals deserve to live, work and play in the least restrictive environment with dignity and respect.

For additional information contact: Ann Mangelsdorf, Assistant Director of Family Support & Advocacy at 314-817-2275 or [amangelsdorf@slarc.org](mailto:amangelsdorf@slarc.org)