



2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

NO MORE CUTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS

Adequately fund the network of community-based providers who serve people with developmental disabilities.

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

Explanation and Impact

Restore the 3% provider cut. More than 95% of DMH consumers are served by community based providers.

Support Rate Rebasing. A recent third party rate study shows that residential services for people with developmental disabilities are underfunded by up to \$118 million (Provider rebasing).

Community providers are experiencing critical staff shortages and high turnover due to a lack of funding to pay a living wage for direct support professionals.

Support Cost of Living Adjustments. The median starting salary for these employees in Missouri is \$10 per hour which is less than \$20,000 per year. Over half of direct support staff use public assistance. A third of staff qualifies for Medicaid.

MEDICAID FUNDING

Support innovative changes to Medicaid which reduce costs and demonstrate increased benefits and outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

Explanation and Impact

Medicaid block grants shift cost burden to the state, making Missouri fully responsible for unanticipated expenditures, instituting waiting lists for crisis and preventative services and reducing access to services for those most in need.

Transformation and efficiency in our system can occur without an artificial cap in dollars.

Medicaid Managed Care models have produced poor outcomes for people with disabilities and have reduced reimbursement rates for providers.

Support legislation that promotes buy-in to Medicaid program

Home and Community-based supports are less costly than institutional placements or nursing homes.

For individuals with significant needs, early and consistent preventative care and family support prove to be less expensive than reactive crisis supports or emergency department care for neglected, untreated illness.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BEING MONITORED

- Guardianship Law Changes
- Money Follows the Person
- Medicaid Managed Care

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