



2020 Legislative Agenda

Harc, Inc. is a community provider that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families enjoy lives of quality, inclusion and dignity through support, education and advocacy.

We support approximately 2,000 individuals in the I/DD community throughout the lifespan beginning with early intervention supports and continuing through retirement. We provide a full range of services including Employment and Day Programs, Residential and Independent Living Supports, and Elderly Services as well as Recreation, Respite and Autism Supports to adults and children.

Our Advocacy Priorities

Our advocacy priorities for this year were determined directly from feedback provided by our participants and families. Harc, Inc. asks legislators to support legislation that improve quality of life and health outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the following areas:

Employment

- ✓ Increased dignified employment opportunities including a continuum of employment services to support individuals of all abilities
- ✓ Promote Incentives for employers who hire and retain individuals with I/DD
- ✓ Establish goals within all state agencies to hire individuals with I/DD
- ✓ Increased access to post-secondary and vocational education to improve career opportunities for people with I/DD

Housing

- ✓ Increased Access to Affordable, Accessible Housing in the Individual's Community of Choice
- ✓ Expand DDS programs, including alternative Residential Supports to maximize independence and eliminate the DDS waiting list
- ✓ Improved access to technology to maximize independence

Transportation

- ✓ Increase availability of transportation that is accessible, affordable and on demand for individuals of all abilities
- ✓ Providing individuals with I/DD with the dignity of going where they want, when they want

Improved Health Outcomes

- ✓ Equal access to quality health, dental and behavioral health care
- ✓ Incentives to State Medical Schools to encourage students to pursue I/DD specialties

Ensuring a Strong, Sustainable Direct Support Workforce

- ✓ Increased opportunities for professional development and training
- ✓ A real, living wage for Direct Support Professionals
- ✓ Ensure a true career path for those committed to supporting individuals with I/DD

Approved by Board 12/4/2019