



2021 Legislative Agenda

Harc provides special needs support for a lifetime to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We proudly serve those with needs that range from very intensive to those who can achieve significant independence. We help people enjoy lives of quality, inclusion and dignity. More than 2,000 people participate in our programs from infancy and continuing through retirement. We do so through programs for Birth-to-Three, Employment and Day Programs, Community and Independent Living Supports, Recreation, Respite and Autism Supports.

Our Advocacy Priorities

These advocacy priorities were determined directly by self-advocates with I/DD and families. Please help our community enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity by supporting the following initiatives:

COVID-19

- ✓ Identify people with I/DD as a priority population to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Designate Direct Support Professionals as frontline workers and a priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Protect people with I/DD by prioritizing the sector for access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Housing

- ✓ Increase access to affordable, accessible housing while providing supports that meet the individual's needs, so that everyone can live where they choose.
- ✓ Increase DDS funding to expand residential options and eliminate the waiting list.
- ✓ Increase funding for SMART technology so that people with I/DD can live as independently as possible.

Employment

- ✓ Ensure that individuals of all abilities have the support they need to work, learn marketable job skills and actively engage in their community through access to post-secondary and vocational education to improve career opportunities for people with I/DD.
- ✓ Encourage employers and state agencies to hire and retain people with I/DD into competitive wage positions and customized jobs that meet and/or exceed current state and federal mandates while still allowing business partners to take advantage of proposed and current tax incentives.

Transportation

- ✓ Increase availability of transportation that is accessible, affordable and on demand for people of all abilities.
- ✓ Include people with I/DD in transportation development conversations as upgrade and new project task forces are formed and begin working.

Improved Health Outcomes

- ✓ Improve access to quality health, dental and behavioral health care for individuals with I/DD by developing curriculum to train practitioners in personal care and medical positions so that they have a deeper understanding of the special needs faced by this community.
- ✓ Improve DSS response time and create a permanent disability determination form.

Ensuring a Strong, Sustainable Direct Support Workforce

- ✓ Increase the wages for Direct Support Professionals that acknowledges and values the crucial role they play in the life of those with I/DD.
- ✓ Increase funding for professional development opportunities for Direct Support Professionals as they grow and develop their personal skill sets.

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