

2019 Public Policy Agenda Executive Summary

The 2019 legislative session provides many opportunities to advance initiatives that will lead to greater independence for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Below is an overview of the legislative priorities for The Arc of Indiana.

** indicates 1102 Task Force Recommendation*

Fiscal Related:

Seek legislation to increase the wages paid to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and continue to educate legislators about the need for a sustainable system that attracts and maintains the DSP workforce. *

Seek legislation that increases funding for Vocational Rehabilitation Services to ensure appropriate staffing needs to address resource and program shortfalls and assist those who need to utilize the programs. *

Support legislation that calls for an increase in the cigarette tax as long as revenue raised from the increased tax goes toward health related programs, including First Steps and improving Medicaid rates which will help the DSP workforce crisis.

The Arc of Indiana will support additional funding to increase rates for case management services.

Support efforts that increase preschool funding.

Support legislation that increases the availability of reliable, affordable transportation.

Non-Fiscal Related:

Support workforce legislation that could lead to increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Seek workforce legislation that is directed at educating Indiana businesses about the positive outcomes associated with hiring people with disabilities and having an inclusive workforce. *

Support bias crimes legislation that increases sentencing to offenders who commit crimes solely based on a person having a disability.

Support efforts to create a crisis management system for people with disabilities. *

Seek legislation to include supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship. *

Support legislation that requires licensure for applied behavior analysts.

Support legislation that revises the priority categories for our Medicaid waivers and allows for some expansion for people with I/DD to transition out of their family home. *

Seek legislation to create a priority category for Indiana's Medicaid Waivers to serve active military families. *