

# FL SAND Legislative Priorities 2025



FL SAND is a network of 13 grassroots, self-advocacy groups that represents people with disabilities throughout the state of Florida. We advocate for disability rights and inclusion for all and represent hundreds of self-advocates in Florida. You can learn more about us at [FLSAND.org](http://FLSAND.org), or reach us at [contactflsand@gmail.com](mailto:contactflsand@gmail.com).

FL SAND chooses legislative priorities each year to address the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Florida. We respectfully submit the following priority requests for the 2025 legislative session.

Members of FL SAND's Cool Abilities group in Pensacola celebrate their local "Advocate of the Year."



## Strengthen Medicaid Insurance Coverage

FL SAND supports Medicaid Home- and Community-Based services (HCBS) that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families access to independence and a flourishing life in the community. There are various issues with Medicaid we feel the legislature can address to help alleviate problems Medicaid clients are experiencing. FL SAND is urging the Legislature to:

1. Streamline the annual Medicaid eligibility process for people with lifelong intellectual and developmental disabilities in an effort to reduce terminations that create significant hardships for people with disabilities who depend on Medicaid medical insurance and essential iBudget waiver services to live independently.
2. Enforce the implementation of 2024 legislation (CS/CS/SB 1758) that directed APD to offer care navigation services to clients (and those on the waiting list); and require Waiver Support Coordinators (WSC) to inform clients of the Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+) option for receiving iBudget services during support planning. It seems that this legislation has not been implemented as planned and people have not been provided with the vital information legislators intended when the bill was passed.
3. Support enhanced implementation of existing and/or creation of new programs that allow people with disabilities to work in the community with increased earning potential without losing essential Medicaid services (e.g. expand Working People with Disabilities program, support a Medicaid Buy-in bill, etc.).

# Disability Representation in State Disaster Preparedness and Relief Planning

FL SAND urges legislators to require the representation of people with disabilities in state disaster preparedness and relief planning. People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable of populations when it comes to preparing for and living in the aftermath of a natural disaster. They also know best about their specific needs and requirements. Decisions about their care should not be made without their representation. Including their voices in disaster planning will increase the likelihood of efficient and effective management of their needs before, during, and after a natural disaster.

# Expand Affordable Housing for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

FL SAND urges legislators to appropriate funds to increase the availability of affordable housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. FL SAND supports the Arc of Florida's legislative requests for a \$25 million appropriation to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to continue its competitive grant program for affordable housing for individuals with I/DD; the utilization of low-income housing tax credits along with grants to support development of larger I/DD affordable rental properties, when appropriate; and enhanced collaboration among state agencies to create a comprehensive strategy promoting housing stability, self-sufficiency, and community access for the I/DD population.



FL SAND members work together to solve disability problems in their local communities.



Clay County Change-Makers members volunteer by stocking books in their community's "Little Library."