



Florida Association of
Centers for Independent Living

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

ISSUE NO. 1 | WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 2023 | WEEK AT A GLANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION LEAD-UP

Although it's been less than 6 months since the 2023 legislative session ended, the lead-up to the 2024 session is underway. The House and Senate were in Tallahassee this week for committee meetings and the designation ceremony for incoming Senate President [Sen. Ben Albritton](#) (R-Bartow). A fourth-generation citrus farmer, Sen. Albritton vowed to focus on agriculture, water quality and dependent youth in the child welfare system during his tenure, which will begin in November 2024.

CIL 2024 Funding Request

FACIL is advocating for \$1.5 million in General Revenue this year, to provide \$100,000 for each CIL to support community transition services. Our excellent lobbying partners, Jon Johnson and Darrick McGhee, have secured continued support from the legislative champions who sponsored our funding request last year - Rep. Demi Bussata-Cabrera (R-Miami) and Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala). **Many many thanks to everyone who has spoken at the local legislative delegation meetings about the work CILs are doing. Your voices will definitely help get our funding request across the finish line in March!**

Bill Filed to Create a Medicaid Buy-in Program

[Sen. Joe Gruters](#) (R-Sarasota) filed [SB 212](#), requiring AHCA to request authority to implement a Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities aged 18-64 whose incomes exceed the maximum eligibility for Medicaid enrollment. There is no House companion bill at this time, but it is notable that this bill to expand Medicaid eligibility was filed by a Republican, who also serves on the HHS Appropriations Committee.

APD, HOPE Florida and New College Partner to Empower Students with Disabilities

This week, First Lady Casey DeSantis held a [press conference to announce a new partnership](#) between the HOPE Florida program within the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and New College of Florida to provide scholarships to certain students with disabilities, along assistance with securing employment after graduation. The First Lady also stated that all state universities have been asked to participate in this initiative. This partnership is an outgrowth of the [HOPE Florida Pathway to Prosperity](#) program, which originated at DCF, and was recently integrated into APD's service delivery model. APD Director Taylor Hatch noted that for APD, the HOPE Florida program is a game-changer, allowing them to expand their reach and address consumer needs more proactively and holistically. APD has hired a team of HOPE Navigators to help consumers achieve their goals by connecting them with nonprofit and faith-based community organizations. CILs can register to become community providers for the HOPE Florida program through the [Care Portal](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FACIL Board of Directors Meeting

- Monday, January 29th
- 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm EST
- [Hampton Inn & Suites Tallahassee Capitol](#)
824 Railroad Ave., 32310
- And Virtually on Boardable

CIL Day @ The Capitol

- Tuesday, January 30th
- 9:00 am – 12:00 noon EST
- Florida Capitol, Tallahassee

Future Committee Week Dates

- November 6-9
- November 13-17
- December 4-7
- December 11-15

The 2024 Legislative Session will commence at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 9th