



Florida Association of
Centers for Independent Living

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

ISSUE NO. 14 | WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 2023 | WEEK AT A GLANCE

SINE SIE – ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR CILS!

The 2023 Legislative Session concluded this morning with unanimous approval by the Senate and House of the largest budget in Florida's history. [SB 2500](#) allocates a total of \$117 billion dollars, including \$34 billion for Medicaid services – which is a \$547 million increase over the current year and will allow APD to take 1,200 individuals off the waiting list for home- and community-based services. The bill also provides nearly \$1 billion for affordable housing and home repairs.

The budget fully funds FACIL's appropriation request with \$975,000 for CILs to provide transition to adults with disabilities. Core funding for CILs is maintained at the same level as last year. This is the third year in a row FACIL's appropriation request has been approved: CILs received \$450,000 in 2021, \$900,000 in 2022, and \$975,000 in 2023 – so great job, everyone!!

Governor DeSantis will have the final say on the budget with his "veto pen" before he signs it into law - so our work is not yet done. But we have been communicating with the Governor's staff about the important services these funds will support in your communities, and we will be asking CILs for help in that effort as well. Stay tuned...



Click on the [video link](#) above to hear FACIL lobbyist Darrick McGhee offer the opening prayer in the Senate this morning.

APD MANAGED CARE PILOT APPROVED IN IMPLEMENTING BILL

The language in [HB 831](#) by Rep. Wyman Duggan (R-Jacksonville) to establish a Medicaid Managed Care pilot for individuals on the APD Waiver waiting list was amended into [SB 2510](#), the health-related budget implementing bill, which was passed unanimously along with the General Appropriations Act (SB 2500) in the final minutes of the Legislative session. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) will now have to submit a request to federal CMS for approval to implement the pilot in Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. If approved, AHCA will award a contract to one Medicaid Health Plan in each of the two regions. The outcome of this pilot will likely influence whether all APD Home and Community-based Services are ultimately transitioned to a Medicaid Managed Care model.

KIDCARE ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION APPROVED

With rare bipartisan agreement, the Florida Legislature approved an expansion of KidCare (the federal children's health insurance program – or CHIP), which serves children whose family income is too high to qualify for Medicaid. [CS/CS/121](#) by Rep. Robin Bartleman (D-Weston) increases the family income limits for KidCare eligibility from 200 percent of the federal poverty level to 300 percent. This is a notable expansion of a state-funded health insurance program, as Florida has consistently declined to adopt higher income eligibility levels for Medicaid every year since the federal Affordable Care Act gave states that option.

