2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Legislative programs are designed to support St. Louis Arc's philosophy that all individuals deserve to live, work, and play in the least restrictive environment with dignity and respect.

Ensure Missourians with disabilities have access to the services they need to survive and thrive.

At the start of FY2025, hundreds of children and adults with disabilities were placed on a waitlist for services to support them to live, work, and attend school in their communities. This waitlist negatively impacted people with disabilities, their families, and the community as a whole. In March, a supplemental budget was passed in order to address this waitlist. St. Louis Arc thanks legislators for the passage of this supplemental funding, and urges elected officials to support increased funding for IDD services in FY2026 (HB 10), to ensure there are no waitlists for future essential services.

Ensure adequate funding to recruit and retain high quality Direct Support Professionals at a competitive wage.

Direct Support Professionals are highly-skilled healthcare workers who support people with disabilities by providing medical care, transportation, behavioral support, compassionate assistance with personal care routines, and more.

The state-funded rates in Missouri only provide $17/hour for DSPs, however a 2021 actuarial rate study indicates $21/hour is the market-wage for DSPs.

Make sure people with disabilities can remain valuable members of Missouri's workforce.

As an Employment First state, people with disabilities' first option must be competitive, integrated employment in the community for fair wages.

Ensure services for Missourians with IDD are paid for through local, county, state, and federal funding.

Continue utilizing all available funding streams for IDD services, and support Developmental Disabilities County Boards to fund community-based programs.

Protect, strengthen and expand Medicaid to fund critical services and better meet the needs of people with IDD.

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