



## Legislative Agenda 2019

**STRENGTHEN community-based services to meet the existing and future critical needs of all Virginians with disabilities.**

1. **PROMOTE provider rates** based on service definitions, living wages for direct service professionals, and regional market-based costs that are **refreshed annually** utilizing the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 75% percentile data and other relevant independent data and rebased on a six-year cycle beginning in 2020 to ensure statewide access to quality supports for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. (DBHDS Provider Issues Resolution Workgroup (PIRW) Recommendation, September 2018)

2. **PROMOTE policy and influence action** to reduce over-regulation and unfunded mandates that create unnecessary operational burden on community-based providers of services that do not add value to the individual with disability served. Support full implementation of recommendations by the DBHDS Provider Issues Resolution Workgroup (PIRW).

### 3. **PROMOTE-Jobs and Employment Supports for ALL Virginians**

Jobs are a priority in Virginia. Jobs for Virginians with disabilities must also be a priority. But, 75% of Virginians with disabilities are without jobs. Like ALL Virginians - they want the opportunity to work, to earn wages, to purchase goods and services in their communities, and to become self-supporting tax payers.

- **PROMOTE adequate funding to eliminate the waiting list for employment supports** at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) by fully funding the opening of Category 1 currently closed under the DARS Order of Selection criteria.
- **SUPPORT** state procurement policies and opportunities that increase equal opportunity and employment for Virginians with disabilities.
  - Fully implement SB 652/McPike (Chapter 681, 2018) to review all procurement policies to increase the employment of Virginians with disabilities.
  - Fully implement SB1530 (Chapter 371, 2017) and HB2425 (Chapter 358, 2017) to increase employment of Virginians with disabilities within state government and through its state contracts by five percent (5%) by 2023.
- **ENSURE** that a full continuum and array of employment options are available to all individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment consistent with the basic principle of informed choice included in the ADA and the Olmstead decision.

4. **SUPPORT full funding for the Priority 1 urgent waiting list** by 2020 to address the DD Waiver waiting list crisis. Individuals in Priority 1 have been assessed as needing services immediately.