

2019 INARF Legislative Agenda Talking Points

Priority #1 – Direct Support Professional (DSP) Wage Increase*

Requested Appropriation: \$23,100,000 per year

- Medicaid is the sole source of funding for waiver services so wages are dictated by rates
- The 2017 legislative appropriation WORKED! It allowed us to increase the statewide average wage from \$10 to \$11.21 per hour
- However, the DSP turnover rate as of July 31, 2018 is still 48% and providers cannot recruit staff
- State funds receive a 66% federal match and would leverage an additional \$44,900,000 annually

Priority #2 – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Funding*

Requested Appropriation: \$3,000,000 per year

- Hoosiers with disabilities receiving VR services can fill workforce shortages in many labor sectors
- State funds receive a 78% federal match and would leverage an additional \$11,100,000 annually
- Additional funds would eliminate the state's annual fiscal deficit, address the program's staff vacancies, and serve more individuals with disabilities who are currently being deferred
- The State does not draw down all allotted money and the funding is reallocated to other states

Priority #3 – First Steps Funding* - HB 1001

Requested Appropriation: \$20,000,000 per year

- Serves children from birth to their third birthday who are experiencing developmental delays
- Findings from the State's fiscal analysis of the First Steps Early Intervention Program included:
 - Due to low reimbursement rates, 70 Indiana counties have a personnel shortage and thus cannot provide therapy services to all eligible children
 - A recommendation of an average rate increase of 55% for First Steps therapy services
- FSSA has committed to re-allocating \$8-10 million in anticipated new Medicaid revenue for services not currently being billed to Medicaid
- Research from James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, indicates a 13% return on investment for birth to five programming compared to the 7-10% return established for preschool investments alone

Priority #4 – Case Management Funding

Requested Appropriation: \$3,200,000 per year

- Pursuant to HEA 1317-2018, the State conducted a rate study for Case Management services
- To ensure individuals receive high quality, individualized Case Management services, the report recommended a Case Management rate increase from \$131.25 to \$154.90 per person per month based on a caseload of 45
- State funds receive a 66% federal match and would leverage an additional \$6,200,000 annually

* Denotes an appropriation was included in the 1102 Task Force Final Report Recommendations