

## 2019 INARF Legislative Agenda Talking Points

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

*Requested Appropriation: \$40,000,000 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 \$155,200,000 dollars
- According to the IU Public Policy Institute, this investment would leverage \$140 million of economic impact to Indiana's economy

### 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\*

*Requested Appropriation: \$22,200,000 in year one, \$25,600,000 in year two*

- 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 \$6,000,000 annually

### Priority #5 – 1102 Task Force Funding\*

- In 2017 the Indiana General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act 1102 requiring a Task Force for the Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The Task Force was chaired by Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and developed 34 recommendations, and implementation will require policy changes and additional appropriations.

#### **Crisis Services**

*Requested Appropriation: \$6,000,000 per year*

- Indiana had a Crisis Assistance Program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from 2007 to 2010
- Served children in schools, Medicaid waiver recipients, and group home residents
- Currently, most Community Mental Health Centers are not equipped to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- 50% federal match
- A crisis program would assist individuals and families during difficult times and contribute to improving the DSP workforce shortage because DSPs would have additional resources to assist during crisis situations

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