



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

2026 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES

ARRM Policy Goal #1

Provide clear expectations and standards for waiver service providers

Background

A clear understanding of regulations and policy is the cornerstone of ensuring that services that support people with disabilities through one of the four disability waivers are provided efficiently and correctly. Setting statewide guidelines, clear documentation expectations, and guidance on regulatory changes is foundational in ensuring that services operate uniformly across the state and the same set of rules is implemented, regardless of where you live.

ARRM's 2026 Proposal

Strengthen and clarify current law to ensure that a uniform set of standards are implemented, requirements are clarified, and community partners receive the same, clear guidance by:

- Setting statewide standards for documentation requirements for rate exceptions renewals
- Requiring written guidance for all community partners by the Department of Human Services within 120 calendar days of CMS approval of a policy change
- Allowing for staff training to occur within 90 days of the annual training date
- Clarifying documentation requirements for Basic and Intensive 245D services

ARRM Policy Goal #2

Ensure continued access to services for people living in their own homes

Background

Individualized Home Support with Training (IHS-T) is available to people on one of the four disability waivers living in their own home. Prior to 2026, this service was available for up to 16 hours per day, depending on an individual's needs. In 2025, the legislature passed a bill that capped IHS-T at just 6 hours per day and 3 hours consecutively. Limiting the number of service hours will prevent individuals with a higher level of need from accessing the appropriate supports and limit their ability to live independently in their own home.

ARRM's 2026 Proposal

Capping the number of IHS-T service hours for individuals does not take into account the individual needs someone might experience on any given day. With that in mind, ARRM proposes:

- Establishing an annual cap on IHS-T service hours, instead of a daily cap
- Removing the 3-Hour consecutive policy language from IHS-T
- Removing the IHS-T service hour cap for individuals with complex needs, as defined by the Residential Support Services criteria, to allow the support team to determine the appropriate level of service

ARRM Policy Goal #3

Enhance the resources available to providers supporting individuals with complex needs

Background

Appropriate housing for individuals with complex needs is one of the biggest barriers to supporting people in the community. Individuals who would be more successful living in a home by themselves often live with roommates because their housing support reimbursement does not cover the cost of housing. Additionally, there is currently no mechanism for a provider to be reimbursed for property damage caused by an individual receiving services, making providers reluctant to support an individual with complex behavioral needs that may be more likely to cause property damage.

ARRM's 2026 Proposal

ARRM proposes to allow providers to work with the county to establish a monthly Housing Support rate add-on, not to exceed \$1,000, to cover the cost of housing for individuals who cannot live with others. Additionally, ARRM proposes the use of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation (EAA) dollars to cover property damage exceeding \$5,000 annually by one individual.

ARRM Policy Goal #4

Provide for consistent payment rate adjustments

Background

Disability Waiver Service provider rates are determined through the Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS). Currently, rates are updated every two years, using economic data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics 24 months and 1 day prior to the previous adjustments. Using dated economic data every two years puts provider reimbursement rates perpetually behind current economic conditions, making it challenging to offer competitive wages for our Direct Support Professional staff.

ARRM's 2026 Proposal

In partnership with the Best Life Alliance, ARRM proposes to change the every other year adjustment to an annual adjustment, beginning in 2028, allowing for reimbursement rates to more accurately reflect current economic conditions and providing resources for competitive wages.

ARRM Policy Goal #5

Establish the Disability Services Technology and Advocacy Expansion Grant

Background

Remote support and assistive technology are important pieces of the future of disability services. However, many people misunderstand or are not aware of the technology options available to people with disabilities and the ways that technology can support their day-to-day lives.

ARRM's 2026 Proposal

ARRM proposes establishing a \$500,000 grant appropriation, administered through the Department of Human Services and awarded to an applicant to educate and advance the use of assistive technology for people with disabilities.

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