



2015 Legislative Agenda

Providing a Pathway to Quality Services for People with Disabilities

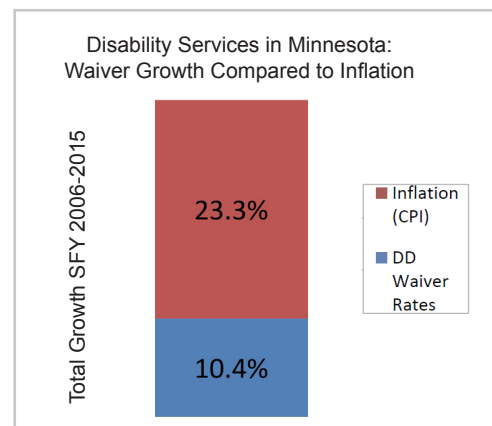
Minnesota holds a strong nonpartisan tradition of supporting citizens with disabilities. ARRM continues that tradition with four critical legislative initiatives in 2015 - assuring quality of life and quality care for Minnesotans with disabilities.

1. Pass a 5% Rate Increase

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funding is determined by state reimbursement rates. Last year's rate increase helped address a crisis driven by years of budget cuts and stagnant caregiver wages and benefits.

Even with rate increase last year, caregiver wages and provider rates continue to lag far behind the cost of living.

With The 5% Campaign, **ARRM seeks a 5% rate increase for HCBS in 2015 and 2016** to ensure that quality services for people with disabilities and older adults continue to be available, stable, and sustainable.



- **Independence for People with Disabilities & Older Adults**

Access to quality services is essential for greater independence in the community. A 5% increase will include group homes, in-home care, apartments, assisted living, daytime/job programs and PCAs.

- **Competitive Wages & Benefits for 90,000+ Caregivers**

Providing fair wages and benefits to caregivers means reducing turnover, and keeping staff who can offer consistent quality care to the people they support.

Direct Support Professional (DSP) work is around-the-clock, physically challenging, and highly-skilled.

People Served Include	Intimate Care Provided	Daily Living Supports
Medically fragile/complex	Bathing	Job coaching
Nonverbal individuals	Dressing	Transportation
Those with high behavior & mental health needs	Toileting	Community involvement
		Meal preparation/delivery

- **Quality Services through a Stable Provider Community**

Providers must keep pace with increasing expenses and compete for employees with other local business such as fast food restaurants. A rate increase will help them maintain quality services and recruit/retain a professional, quality workforce.

2. Cover the Impact of Minimum Wage Increases

Minnesota's disability service providers are funded by government. We cannot raise our prices or artificially reduce employee hours to pay for increases in the minimum wage. Only the legislature and governor can increase our revenue to fund this new cost.

Our minimum wage employees are night staff who are paid when they sleep. Without funding their minimum wage increases, providers' only option to cover this new cost would be to reduce wages and benefits for non-sleep caregivers. Staff wages and benefits account for 78% of all provider expenditures.

ARRM asks the legislature to assume the responsibility other businesses have taken and pay disability providers for the cost of minimum wage increases.

3. Make Minnesota's New Rate System Work for People and Providers

As directed by the federal government, Home and Community-Based services for Minnesotans with disabilities are now paid through the state's complex "Disability Waiver Rate System" (DWRS). The many complexities must be clarified.

The DWRS Coalition of disability advocates and providers will introduce a bill to address implementation issues. It will assure transparency, consistency across the state, simplicity, and prevent loss or disruption of services for people with disabilities.

4. Support ARRM's Roadmap to Reform Bill

Through education, administrative changes at DHS, and legislation ARRM's Roadmap to Reform helps move Minnesota toward our shared goal: person centered services in the most integrated settings possible. This year's legislation cleans up technical barriers to reach that goal.

ABOUT ARRM

ARRM is an association of providers, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of community-based services that support people with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives. Our members include 150 providers that support thousands of Minnesotans with developmental and physical disabilities, brain injuries, mental illness and autism. Please consider us a resource and contact us for more information.



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