Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Our Mission:

“The mission of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc. is to promote the interests of individuals with disabilities by acting as a public policy change agent, and to promote and serve the interests of community human service provider organizations.”

Although numerous organizations advocate for consumers and their families, Florida ARF represents CEO’s business, management, and administrative interests in the rehabilitation industry in addition to advocating for the interests of the individuals our members serve.

Our Members:

**Community Organizations:**
- Private (Profit & Nonprofit)
- Goodwill Industries
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Assoc. for Retarded Citizens
- Employment Centers
- ICF/DDs

**Service Providers:**
- Community Based Waiver 89%
- Residential/Long Term Care 77%
- Employment Centers 26%
- Supported Employment 39%
- Psycho-Social/Vocational 31%
- Developmental Disabilities 95%
Why Join Florida ARF?

"Florida ARF is at the forefront in advocating for the needs of persons with disabilities due to the collective expertise of its members, but equally as important is the leadership of Florida ARF as they are the backbone of the organization. The information disseminated to members through the various forums and email updates/newsletters has proven to be an extremely valuable benefit of being a member of this organization. The true strength of Florida ARF is its members, members whose sole mission is creating opportunities and promoting independence for persons with disabilities."

Clint Bower, 9-year member
Advocacy

**Professional Lobbying**
Florida ARF communicates its member positions to the Florida Legislature by developing and promoting an annual Legislative platform to ensure Legislators are educated on issues affecting your agency. The Association has an effective and diverse lobbying team.

**Grassroots Advocacy**
Every effective change movement in history has been supported by a strong grassroots organization. Florida ARF provides its members with a comprehensive grassroots advocacy toolkit to assist you in organizing your constituency. Throughout the year, you will receive regular and timely Action Alerts and Action Response Directions.
Information Sharing

Florida ARF features a state-of-the-art website that places industry information at your fingertips.

Publications and work products available online for members:

- **Capitol Breaking News**: Updates on the latest breaking Capitol developments.
- **Issues Forum Breaking News**: Provides monthly updates on industry news, publications, and trends.
- **President’s Reports**: Monthly messages from the President & CEO.
- **Email Informationals**: Informal, frequent news/information.
- **Alerts**: Call-to-action notices for grassroots advocacy.
- **Media Announcements**: Links to pertinent media stories.

We have the capability to share information in seconds.

Visit our website at: [www.floridaarf.org](http://www.floridaarf.org)
Florida ARF communicates your input on public policy decisions to the Executive and Legislative branches. In addition to our ongoing Legislative involvement, Florida ARF staff members continuously monitor state agency Administrative Rule development activity. We analyze proposed policy decisions to determine industry impact, seek your input, and provide oral and written testimony before policy makers on your behalf.

http://faw.dos.state.fl.us/

Last year, Florida ARF actively participated in the development of numerous administrative rules.
Training and Education

Florida ARF provides education and training opportunities for members.

In addition to quarterly meetings, workshops, and forums, special trainings are provided on pertinent topics throughout the year.

Ad hoc groups are formed on an as needed basis to ensure sufficient attention to topical issues.

State and national training opportunities are shared with members on a regular basis.
Agency Liaison

Florida ARF is the liaison between community human service agencies and government offices that are responsible for the funding, administration and regulation of human service programs.

Our effort and resources are dedicated to representing your interests with state governmental officials.

We are your voice when you cannot be there.
Networking Opportunities

Florida ARF creates networking opportunities for member agencies via issues forum meetings: Infants, Children & Youth, Community Supports, Employment, Legal Advocacy, ICF/DD, Government Relations, and RESPECT Oversight. Members communicate their concerns via meetings, teleconferences, and agency to agency interaction.

Member Driven:

Florida ARF is governed by a member-based Board of Directors elected by the membership. Six Board seats are reserved for members of families of individuals with disabilities.

2009 Annual Conference

2009 Winter Meeting
Florida ARF has professional staff and consultants who are available to answer your questions, share information, represent your interests, and trouble shoot with State government agencies.

Our staff are available to assist you on an as needed basis.
Employment Exchange

Florida ARF’s Employment Exchange lists & advertises employment opportunities within the industry and highlights potential candidates.

E-mail, FAX, or mail job descriptions, resumes, or vitae to Florida ARF.

Florida ARF is committed to increasing opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of all positions advertised.
Suzanne Sewell  

Suzanne is the Association’s chief spokesperson, representing some 100 community human service organizations and serves as the CEO of the RESPECT of Florida program. Suzanne has 30+ years work experience with Florida social services agencies. She coordinates the Association’s overall objectives, plans, and policies and represents the Association with governmental agencies, the financial community, and the public. Suzanne is also the Association liaison for the Department of Children & Families, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Education, and the Agency for Health Care Administration. Additionally she manages the Association’s governmental relations activity and membership recruitment campaign. Suzanne is 100% committed to ensuring that Florida ARF promotes the interests of individuals with developmental disabilities as a public policy change agent. You may call Suzanne at 850.877.4816 (#123) or email her at: ssewell@floridaarf.org
Courtney has more than ten years of experience in association work in the DD field. Her responsibilities at the Association include serving as a staff liaison for the Florida ARF Issues Forums (Infants, Children & Youth; Community Supports; ICF/DD; Employment; Legal Advocacy; and Government Relations). She manages and coordinates Florida ARF meetings, trainings, and conferences. Courtney also manages production of our monthly newsletter and legislative communications, assists with member support functions including member recruitment, and serves as the Florida Association for Direct Services Professionals liaison.

She may be contacted at 850.877.4816 (#114) or email her at: cswilley@floridaarf.org
Jennifer Upton is the Association's Chief Financial Officer, which plans, develops, and administers the financial affairs of the association. Areas of responsibility include budgeting, accounting, financial forecasting, financial reporting, business support services, and financial compliance. She is a CPA with over twenty years of experience in public accounting and private industry.

She may be contacted at 850.877.4816 (#111) or email her at: jupton@floridaarf.org
John is the Association’s Human Resources Director. He handles personnel recruitment and is responsible for various other administrative functions such as management of contracts. He is available to provide telephone or email consultation on personnel, labor relations, or employment matters including: Family Medical Leave; Workers Compensation; Hiring/Discipline/Termination; Performance Appraisals; and, Wage & Hour Law. You may contact John at 850.877.4816 (#142) or email him at: jbruntlett@floridaarf.org
Erin Albertson provides Information Technology (IT) support for Florida ARF’s newsletters and publications and manages the Florida ARF and RESPECT of Florida websites. She provides staff IT support for multiple special projects and is available to provide technical assistance on web page design and management. She may be contacted at: 850-877-4816 (#143) or email: ealbertson@floridaarf.org
John McBride

RESPECT of Florida Executive Director

John is responsible for the daily operations of the RESPECT of Florida Program, a program that creates work opportunities for citizens with disabilities by generating markets for the sale of commodities and services produced by organizations that employ people with disabilities.

As the Executive Director of RESPECT, John is the Association’s representative with the Department of Management Services under a Central Non-Profit Agency Agreement. He maintains working relationships with government purchasing personnel throughout the State and develops products and services that can be produced by nonprofit agencies. You may call John at 850.877.4816 (#121) or email him at:

jmcbride@floridaarf.org
Structure

ISSUES FORUMS

Infants, Children, & Youth
Community Supports
Employment
Government Relations
ICF/DD
Legal Advocacy
RESPECT Oversight

*Florida ARF is member driven.*
The mission of the Infants, Children, & Youth Forum is to provide advocacy and intervention for programs and resources for special needs children from birth through age 22.

The Infants, Children, & Youth Forum addresses industry concerns and provides input as needed on topics such as Transition Services for youth leaving high school, IDEA Part C, Charter Schools, and other issues affecting disabled children.

"Florida ARF’s Infants, Children, & Youth Forum serves as a tool for all people involved in the vital role of supporting children and their families in their quest for cutting edge answers to their most important questions. While staying on top of legislative issues and the latest assistive technology we also share the most important resource of all, each other. Our group meetings provide advocates for children birth through 22 an open forum to share ideas and solutions to the challenges faced everyday by our children and to create solid resolutions to those challenges." Troy Strawder, 12-year member
The mission of the Community Supports Forum is to advance the goals and issues of community agencies that serve people who need support with their daily living activities, particularly for individuals with developmental disabilities. This Forum deals with service issues providers face on a daily basis such as Medicaid Waiver policy and other changes in service delivery systems.

“Florida ARF provides its members the opportunity to network and learn from the expertise of others so that programs and services are enhanced for the population we serve; and collectively, as a group of concerned providers, we can act as a positive change agent for people who need a spokesman for their needs.” Tina Philips, 44-year member
The mission of the Employment Issues Forum is to “provide a venue for the exchange and discussion of ideas and issues relating to the operation of programs by community agencies for the job training, placement, retention and advancement of people with significant barriers to employment.” The forum addresses policies, best practices, industry innovations and advocacy issues through issue statements, training, action agendas and impact analysis.

“While there are many benefits to membership in Florida ARF, two of the most important to our organization are: (1) Exposure to forward-thinking professionals in our field, and (2) Having representation on matters before the legislative body and other decision-makers on matters of great importance to our organization.” Rich Gilmartin, 18-year member
The Government Relations Forum is responsible for the packaging and delivering of Florida ARF’s annual legislative and executive branch platform. Additionally, the Government Relations Forum provides a grassroots advocacy program to help members educate their legislators.

“Quest has been a member of Florida ARF for over 20 years. The information the organization provides is extremely beneficial to the daily operations of our program. Additionally, the networking opportunities and forum meetings help us stay on top of state and national industry trends. I heartily endorse membership in Florida ARF – it is money well-spent.”  Katie Porta, 24-year member.
The mission of the Intermediate Care Facilities for Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) Forum is to promote quality of care available for individuals with severe disabilities who cannot live independently. The ICF/DD forum addresses issues that affect residential facilities licensed and certified in accordance with state law and certified by the Federal Government as providers of Medicaid services to persons who are developmentally disabled.

“The individuals we serve have benefited in countless ways due to the advocacy and leadership of Florida ARF. As members, we are proud of this legacy as well as respectful of the ongoing responsibility to maintain Florida ARF’s role as the premiere organization in our field.” Jim Weeks, 30-year member
Legal Advocacy

Joe Aniello, Ph.D., Chair
President & CEO
UCP South Florida

To be in the forefront of educating and securing support to address issues that negatively influence service alternatives for individuals with disabilities that have proven to be unsolvable through negotiated efforts is the mission of the Legal Advocacy Forum. While viewed as a last alternative, litigation has played a critical role in the development of services for Florida’s citizens with disabilities. When appropriate, the Forum uses legal advocacy to resolve disputes regarding the availability of services for individuals with disabilities.

“Membership in Florida ARF allows for pooling of resources of many organizations to achieve mutual goals in serving the developmentally disabled population in Florida. It also provides a forum to share information, promotes opportunities for comradeship, and offers a huge experience pool to learn and plan from.” Dr. Joe Aniello, 32-year member
The RESPECT Oversight Committee provides direction and guidance to the RESPECT program to ensure that governmental agencies within the State of Florida obtain quality products and services produced by persons with disabilities. Under the trade name "RESPECT of Florida," thousands of job opportunities have been created over three decades by community agencies.

“The real time information distributed by the highly qualified staff of Florida ARF is worth its weight in gold. I don’t know how non-members can survive in today’s world without it. Strength in numbers and our ability to lobby through Florida ARF has helped us achieve our mission and persevere time and again.” Shirley Balogh, 28-year member
More affordable than you think

## Membership

**ONE TIME INTRODUCTORY RATES FOR NEW MEMBERS**

*Introductory offer purchases a first year non-voting membership.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Expenditures (Range)</th>
<th>Regular Membership (Range)</th>
<th>Promotional Offer (Year 1 Range)</th>
<th>Promotional Offer (Year 2 Range)</th>
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<td>$ 465 - $ 1,395</td>
<td>$ 155 - $ 465</td>
<td>$ 310 - $ 930</td>
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*Annual dues are based on members’ audited total Florida operating expenditures and are calculated by multiplying expenditures by .002325 - capped at $15,000.*