2021 Legislative Priorities
1. Appropriate competitive rates for community providers that serve Missourians with Disabilities

Allocate $86 million GR for **DD Rate Standardization** (DMH Budget, Section 10.410)

- Solve the DSP crisis by fixing outdated reimbursement rates to ensure community providers have the resources to compete for essential direct care staff by paying wages that reflect the rising minimum wage

Fully Fund Employment Services for Individuals with Disabilities

- DMH-DD supported employment services
- DESE-Vocational Rehabilitation employment services
What is a Direct Support Professional?

A **Direct Support Professional** (DSP) is an essential healthcare worker who supports people with disabilities to live and work with independence in the community.

Over **15,000 Missourians** work as a DSP.

Typical **job duties** include: medical and behavioral supports, hands-on personal assistance, job coaching, skills building, and crisis prevention and intervention.

Average starting wage for DSPs as of 2018: **$9.95/hr.**

**Missouri minimum wage** in 2021: **$10.30/hr.**
Direct Support Professional Crisis in Missouri

52% access a form of government assistance

32% utilize SNAP benefits

31% enrolled in Medicaid

Job vacancy rate is 20%

38% leave within first year

DSP turnover is 56%
Fully Fund Provider Rates in Missouri

- **25%**: 1 in 4 DSPs live in poverty
- **7,500**: Missourians with IDD receive residential services
- **800 providers**: In Missouri serve more than 15,000 children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- **$4.35**: For every $1.00 of State funding invested into this system, $4.35 of economic activity is generated
Ensure Missourians with disabilities have the opportunity to work in a competitive, integrated setting as the first and preferred choice. Establish Employment First legislation for the State of Missouri. Maintain Missouri's status as a Model Employer for people with disabilities.
Employment of People with Disabilities in Missouri

**What is Employment First?**
Employment first is a concept to facilitate the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace and community in which community-based, competitive integrated employment is the first and preferred outcome for employment services for persons with disabilities.

**$1.46**
For every $1.00 invested in employment services, Missouri saves an additional $1.46 and bolsters taxable income.

**75%**
Seventy-five percent of Missourians with cognitive disabilities are unemployed.

**22**
Twenty-two other states in the US have passed Employment First legislation.
MARF improves the lives of Missourians with disabilities by driving public policy and strengthening member organizations through advocacy, education and collaboration.