

## 2024 INARF Legislative Agenda Talking Points

### Transportation

- According to the 2020 census, nearly 930,000 Hoosiers aged 18-64 reported having a disability.
- Many of these individuals require more accessible transportation for their everyday activities such as traveling to work, visiting family, or going to the grocery store.
- In the January 2022 Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, the second-highest improvement sought by the survey respondents with disabilities was “improved transportation options”.
- Increasing accessible transportation options was also a strategic priority identified by the Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force (1102 Task Force) in 2023.

***Ask: Hold a public hearing in which individuals with disabilities, providers, and stakeholders may discuss the current issues they have with available, accessible transportation and offer potential solutions.***

### Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Data Transparency

- There are an estimated 18,000 DSPs in the state that provide essential services to individuals with I/DD.
- Currently, the DWD issues monthly employment reports and gives breakdowns based on occupations, but DSPs are not specifically tracked due to not having their own occupational classification.
- Federal legislation has been introduced over the past two years to create a separate classification for DSPs, but none have passed.
- The state has shown that they have a vested interest in the DSP workforce through the creation of a DSP registry (from HEA 1342-2023) and ongoing projects highlighting the growing need for home-based support workers like DSPs.
- INARF is working on language that would require FSSA to work with the DWD when creating the registry so that the DWD can incorporate the DSP workforce data from the registry in their employment reports.

***Ask: Require DWD to incorporate the DSP workforce data from the FSSA registry in their monthly employment on-line reports.***