

Family Resources for People with Disabilities



or <https://apd.myflorida.com/>

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

APD works with local organizations and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD identifies the service needs of people with developmental disabilities, and those individuals may receive social, medical, behavioral, residential, and/or therapeutic services.

The agency serves more than 50,000 Floridians with the following disabilities:

- People severely impaired by autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Intellectual disabilities
- Down syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Children age 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability



Bright Feats Directory



or <https://brightfeats.com/>

Bright Feats directory is owned and operated by Simple Life Connections, LLC.

Bright Feats provides information about local community services, offers support to families and helps businesses convey their unique services to the special needs community.

Having children with special needs and as a result of navigating through the complex maze of the healthcare and educational systems, we recognize the support families require in identifying helpful and necessary resources for their children. Through personal experience we connect with many community organizations and families and understand there is a demand for a resource directory specifically designed for families with children that have special needs. We empathize how overwhelming it can be as each new challenge and diagnosis is discovered.



or <https://cfl.ucf-card.org/>

Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD)

Florida is home to many individuals with autism and related disabilities. In response to the needs of these people and their families, seven regional, nonresidential resource centers have been established.

The Centers serve both children and adults of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism spectrum disorders, dual sensory impairments, or sensory impairments with other disabling conditions recognized by Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). A constituency board comprised of family members representing persons with autism and related disabilities meets quarterly with Center staff to provide guidance on policies, priorities and activities.

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or <https://dsfflorida.org/>

Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida

The Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida is a non-profit organization started by a group of visionary parents who wanted to directly impact children, families and the community as they journeyed through life with a loved one with Down syndrome. We are a grassroots organization made up of volunteers that believe that through creative programs and partnerships, we can facilitate opportunities and experiences so that there is no mystery or myth about people with Down syndrome. Our goal is to promote inclusion, understanding, and acceptance by expanding opportunities for individuals, families, and communities touched by Down syndrome.



or <https://faast.org/centers/atlantic-rdc/>

Florida's Assistive Technology Program - FAAST ARDC

FAAST, the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology program, is administered through the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and is federally funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004 (P.L. 108-364).

Since its inception in 1998, FAAST has been and continues to be a resource to provide Floridians free access to information, referral services, educational programs, and publications on extensive topics related to disability rights, laws/policies, and funding opportunities for assistive technology.



or <https://fndusa.org/>

Family Network on Disabilities

Family Network on Disabilities (FND) was founded in 1985 by a group of parents of children with disabilities who came together for mutual support and information-sharing. FND is a grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families that is family-centered and family-driven.



FDLRS Action

Serving Florida Virtual School, Lake, Orange Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and UCP



or <https://action.fdlrs.org/>

FDLRS and FIN

The Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) collaborates with all districts and schools to provide customized services and supports ensuring all students with disabilities have the same educational, social, and future opportunities as their peers.

In partnership with districts, FIN facilitates the implementation of inclusive best practices through:

1. Data-driven, student-focused planning and problem-solving across districts and schools.
2. Data-driven professional development and technical assistance to increase knowledge and skills of district and school personnel.
3. Coaching and resources for district and school personnel to sustain inclusive best practices.
4. Sharing information to build collaborative relationships between families, schools, and districts.