

3333 West Pensacola Street
Suite 140
Tallahassee, FL 32303
www.faast.org



Voice (850) 487-3278
TDD (877) 506-2723
Toll-Free (888) 788-9216
Fax (850) 487-2805

General Resource and Self-Help Guide for Children with Disabilities and their Families

This self-help resource guide created by FAAST, in partnership with the Florida Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, provides general resource and self-help information to assist in navigating available resources for children with disabilities for state officials, parents, family members, caregivers, guardians, advocates/representatives, and other interested parties.

This resource guide is not a substitute for legal advice

To find a subject or definition of terms that may be of most help to you, please refer to the detailed Table of Contents that provides topics/subject matter and page number references.

June 30, 2010

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. ABOUT FAAST	1
III. GUARDIANSHIP	3
IV. FEDERAL LAWS.....	5
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	5
ADA Title I: Employment.....	5
ADA Title II: State and Local Government Activities.....	6
ADA Title II: Public Transportation.....	7
ADA Title III: Public Accommodations.....	7
ADA Title IV: Telecommunications Relay Services.....	8
Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended	9
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended.....	9
Section 508.....	10
Architectural Barriers Act.....	11
Telecommunications Act.....	11
Fair Housing Act	12
Air Carrier Access Act.....	13
Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act.....	13
V. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT (IDEIA) PARTS B AND C.....	14
PART C - IDEIA 2004 Early Intervention	15
Screening, Referral and Assessment under IDEIA Part C.....	17
Federal And State Laws Regarding Early Intervention.....	19
Due Process Rights Under Part C Of IDEIA.....	19
VI. STATE PROGRAMS	20
Chart of Interagency Agreements.....	20
Medicaid	23
Children’s Medical Services (CMS).....	24
Children’s Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Team (CMAT).....	24
Medical Foster Care	25

Early Steps.....	26
Medicaid’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)	26
Medicaid Child Health Services-Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC)	27
Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)	28
Office of Family Safety	28
The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)	29
Florida KidCare	29
Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver	30
Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD).....	30
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Not Social Security).....	31
Women-Infant-Children (WIC) Program	32
State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.....	33
Mental Health Services Agency	34
VII. PROGRAMS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND CHILDREN IN FLORIDA	
General.....	34
Advocacy	35
AIDS/HIV.....	36
Asperger Syndrome	37
Assistive Technology	37
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD)	37
Autism	37
Blindness and Visual Impairments	39
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury	39
Cerebral Palsy.....	40
Other Resources.....	40
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System-FDLRS.....	41
Communication Disorders	42
Developmental Disabilities	43
Diabetes	45
Epilepsy	45
Independent Living	46
Learning Disabilities	46

Mental Health	47
Multi-Service Agencies.....	48
Prader-Willi Syndrome	49
Transportation	49
VIII. OTHER PARENT RESOURCES	50
ATTACHMENT #1 Definitions of 13 Disability Categories	57
ATTACHMENT #2 Individual Family Support Plan.....	60
ATTACHMENT #3 CMS Offices Throughout Florida	63
ATTACHMENT #4 Important Points to Consider in EPSDT.....	79
ATTACHMENT #5 Legal Aid Offices in Florida	80

General Resource and Self-Help Guide for Children with Disabilities and their Families

I. INTRODUCTION

This resource guide is provided by the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST). It was created to provide general resource and self-help information on Federal Disability Rights Laws, State Laws and Resources, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Part C of the Individuals with Education Act, and other applicable federal/state laws and regulations for children with disabilities, for parents, family members, caregivers, guardians, advocates/ representatives and other interested parties. Within this resource guide you will find helpful suggestions, resources, and cite references to federal/state laws and regulations applicable to education and available resources along with informational websites that may be useful research tools and starting points in accessing services for your child.

This Resource Guide is not a substitute for Legal Advice.

II. ABOUT FAAST

FAAST, under Florida Statute [§413.407](#), became a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization on October 20, 1994. FAAST has a well qualified diverse Board of Directors comprised of a majority of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or are family members/guardians of individuals with disabilities. The mission of FAAST is “to improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology.” The provision of assistive services and technology can enable individuals with disabilities to realize independence and fully participate in society as productive tax-paying citizens. FAAST also supports assistive technology demonstration centers where children and adults with disabilities in communities across the state receive individualized assistive technology instruction.

FAAST has qualified staff dedicated to a broad array of services including but not limited to state and regional device loan programs; device reutilization/recycling programs; a Telework and Alternative Finance Program; spinal cord injury resources; peer mentoring services; community reintegration assistance; assistive technology related information and referral; and assistive technology demonstrations, trainings and

community outreach. We have produced fact sheets, policy briefs and resource guides on disability related matters. To review other comprehensive FAAST resource guides such as: *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), Reauthorized 2004; Employment Resources and Self-Help Guide for Individuals with Disabilities; Individuals with Disabilities in Nursing Homes and Other Health Care Facilities; General Housing Resources; Information for Older Individuals with Disabilities; and Emergency Preparedness*, go to: www.faast.org/atr_trends.cfm.

FAAST, Inc. has developed a user-friendly website featuring vendors who provide rehabilitation engineering, home modification, and assistive technology. FAAST's website hosts *ATBay* to enable individuals to buy, sell or trade technology and the website has an accessible housing database, information on our assistive technology device loan program, and many other services. For more information about FAAST and the services we provide, go to: www.faast.org or contact us at 1-888-788-9216, TDD 850-922-5951, 850-487-3278, and fax at 850-487-2805.

A NOTE ABOUT TERMINOLOGY AND LEGAL CITATIONS

Because this guide is written for advocates, family members and parents of children with disabilities, and the subject matter is complex to begin with, we have tried to make this resource guide as user-friendly as possible. Please be advised that when you see this symbol (§), it means section. We use the terms "school system," "public school" and "school" when we discuss Part C, early intervention. These are the entities responsible for providing special education to infants and toddlers with disabilities. Federal law uses the term "local educational agency" (LEA) and Florida law also uses the same term.

We refer to the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004](#) as "IDEIA 2004" or as "the new law." The 1997 special education law is called "IDEA 1997" or "the old law." H.R.1350: **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004** (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate), *SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the `Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004'.*

The [United States Code](#) (U.S.C.) was created to codify United States federal law into an organized code, which is found under 50 separate titles and may be published every six years.

The [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (CFR) is a multi-volume set of documents that organizes the rules and regulations that are published within the Federal Register by departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The CFR is divided into 50 major headings, shown as Titles. Regulations are listed under the appropriate title by a system of CFR numbers. For example, Title 34 CFR refers to the Code of Federal Regulations relating to Education; the specific regulation pertaining to a free appropriate

public education (FAPE) under IDEIA is published as [34 CFR 300.101\(c\)](#). Each volume of the CFR may be updated and reprinted once each calendar year.

Further, the [Florida Administrative Code](#) (FAC) is a compilation of the rules and regulations of Florida regulatory agencies. The FAC is organized by titles, with each title number representing a department, commission, board or other state agency. The most up-to-date comprehensive websites with links to Florida Statutes, State Laws and Federal Regulations concerning special education can be found on the Florida Department of Education website under the category “Florida Statutes, State Laws and Federal Regulations.” <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/linkhome.asp>

The birth of a child is an exciting, life-changing event. A beautiful new baby comes to your house, family, and neighborhood. It is a time for celebration. Family members look at the new child and wonder: Will he be a football star, will she be a famous musician, will he discover the cure for cancer, will she become President of the United States?

But what happens when this new child has a disability? What if there are health problems? What if, as time goes by, it seems as if the child isn't learning and progressing as quickly or easily as other children? There are many supports available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and children with disabilities, thanks to the federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). Services for very young children, from birth through age two, are called *Early Intervention* or *Part C services* (so named for where they are described in IDEIA). Early intervention is an effective way to help children catch up or address specific developmental concerns as soon as possible in their lives. The education of children with disabilities is a top national priority. Our nation's special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), *Part B*, sets high standards for their achievement and guides how special help and services are made available in schools to address their individual needs.

More than 6 million children with disabilities receive special education and related services in our schools each year. To learn more about the vital services covered under Parts B and C of IDEIA and many other Federal and State laws, explore the topics below.

Disability Classification Categories under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

For a complete list of the 13 categories of disability classification, see Attachment 1 - DEFINITIONS OF 13 DISABILITY CATEGORIES UNDER IDEIA.

III. GUARDIANSHIP

A guardian is a surrogate decision-maker appointed by the court to make personal and/or financial decisions for a minor or for an adult with mental and/or physical disabilities. After adjudication, the subject of the guardianship is termed a “ward.” Adult

guardianship is the process by which the court finds an individual's ability to make decisions is impaired, therefore the court gives the right to make decisions to another person or entity. Guardianship is only warranted when no less restrictive alternatives, such as a durable power of attorney, a trust, a health care surrogate or proxy, or another form of pre-need directive, are found by the court to be appropriate and available. Legislative intent establishes that the least restrictive form of guardianship is desirable, if it is in the best interest of the ward.

Guardianship is an ethical as well as legal relationship with many court-mandated duties and responsibilities involving the very basic rights of another human being. It is of the utmost necessity that:

1. An attorney be consulted to represent and advise the guardian in all appropriate, technical procedural and fiduciary matters relating to the court; and
2. The guardian proceed with the utmost diligence to take care of the ward, safeguarding the ward's numerous rights while preserving the ward's dignity, and improving the quality of that ward's life.

Guardianship law is controlled primarily by [Chapter 744 FS](#), although local rules may influence a particular statute's application. {28 Fla. Jur. 2d *Guardian and Ward* §5 (2004)} Procedures for all guardianship proceedings are governed by the Florida Probate Rules. Thus, a proper application of guardianship law requires adherence to the Florida Statutes, the applicable local court rules, Florida Probate Rules and applicable court decisions. For more information, see *Florida Guardian Law and Information*, 18th Judicial Circuit, Seminole County, FL, updated January 2007, at http://www.flcourts18.org/PDF/guardianship_rev1-07.pdf

Definition of Guardian

A guardian is a person who has been appointed by the court to act on behalf of a ward's person, property or both. [FS §744.102\(9\)](#) The guardian may exercise only those rights that have been removed from the ward and delegated to the guardian. [FS §744.361\(1\)](#)

Definition of Guardian Advocate

A guardian advocate means a person appointed by a written order of the court to represent a person with developmental disabilities under [FS §393.12](#).

Definition of Ward

A Ward means the person for whom a guardian has been appointed. [FS §744.102\(22\)](#)

Definition of Incapacity

An incapacitated person means a person who has been judicially determined to lack capacity to manage at least some of the property or to meet at least some essential health and safety requirements of such person. [FS §744.102\(12\)](#)

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council has a user-friendly Planning Ahead Guide that addresses guardianship and other issues applicable to children with disabilities. For more information, go to:

<http://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/file/publications/PlanningAheadFinal.pdf>.

IV. FEDERAL LAWS

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, State and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. It also applies to the United States Congress.

To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability or have a relationship or association with an individual with a disability. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered. See, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. [42 USC. §§ 12101 et seq](#)

ADA Title I: Employment

Title I requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide qualified individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from the full range of employment-related opportunities available to others. For example, it prohibits discrimination in recruitment, hiring, promotions, training, pay, social activities, and other privileges of employment. It restricts questions that can be asked about an applicant's disability before a job offer is made, and it requires that employers make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities, unless it results in undue hardship. Religious entities with 15 or more employees are covered under Title I.

Title I complaints must be filed with the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 180 days of the date of discrimination, or 300 days if the charge is filed with a designated State or local fair employment practice agency. Individuals may file a lawsuit in Federal court only after they receive a "right-to-sue" letter from the EEOC.

Charges of employment discrimination on the basis of disability may be filed at any U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission field office. Field offices are located in 50 cities throughout the U.S. and are listed in most telephone directories under "U.S. Government." [29 CFR Parts 1630, 1602 \(Title I, EEOC\)](#)

For More Information:
Equal Opportunity Commission
(800) 669-4000 (voice)
(800) 669-6820 (TTY)
www.eeoc.gov

Publications and information on EEOC-enforced laws may be obtained by calling:
(800) 669-3362 (voice)
(800) 800-3302 (TTY)

For information on how to accommodate a specific individual with a disability, contact the Job Accommodation Network at:
(800) 526-7234 (voice/TTY)
<http://askjan.org/>

ADA Title II: State and Local Government Activities

Title II covers all activities of State and local governments regardless of the government entity's size or receipt of Federal funding. Title II requires that State and local governments give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all of their programs, services, and activities (e.g. public education, employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social services, courts, voting, and town meetings).

State and local governments are required to follow specific architectural standards in the new construction and alteration of their buildings. They also must relocate programs or otherwise provide access in inaccessible older buildings, and communicate effectively with people who have hearing, vision, or speech disabilities. Public entities are not required to take actions that would result in undue financial and administrative burdens. They are required to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination, unless they can demonstrate that doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity being provided.

Complaints of Title II violations may be filed with the Department of Justice within 180 days of the date of discrimination. In certain situations, cases may be referred to a mediation program sponsored by the Department. The Department may bring a lawsuit where it has investigated a matter and has been unable to resolve violations. [28 CFR Part 35 \(Title II, Department of Justice\)](#)

For more information:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Disability Rights Section - NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530

www.ada.gov

(800) 514-0301 (voice)

(800) 514-0383 (TTY)

Title II may also be enforced through private lawsuits in Federal court. It is not necessary to file a complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) or any other Federal agency, or to receive a "right-to-sue" letter, before going to court.

ADA Title II: Public Transportation

The transportation provisions of Title II cover public transportation services, such as city buses and public rail transit (e.g. subways, commuter rails, Amtrak). Public transportation authorities may not discriminate against people with disabilities in the provision of their services. They must comply with requirements for accessibility in newly purchased vehicles, make good faith efforts to purchase or lease accessible used buses, remanufacture buses in an accessible manner, and, unless it would result in an undue burden, provide paratransit where they operate fixed-route bus or rail systems. Paratransit is a service where individuals who are unable to use the regular transit system independently (because of a physical or mental impairment) are picked up and dropped off at their destinations.

For more information:

Office of Civil Rights
Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 9102

Washington, D.C. 20590

(888) 446-4511 (voice/relay)

www.fta.dot.gov/ada

ADA Title III: Public Accommodations

Title III covers businesses and nonprofit service providers that are public accommodations, privately operated entities offering certain types of courses and examinations, privately operated transportation, and commercial facilities. Public accommodations are private entities who own, lease, lease to, or operate facilities such as restaurants, retail stores, hotels, movie theaters, private schools, convention centers, doctors' offices, homeless shelters, transportation depots, zoos, funeral homes, day

care centers, and recreation facilities including sports stadiums and fitness clubs. Transportation services provided by private entities are also covered by Title III.

Public accommodations must comply with basic nondiscrimination requirements that prohibit exclusion, segregation, and unequal treatment. They also must comply with specific requirements related to architectural standards for new and altered buildings; reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures; effective communication with people with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities; and other access requirements. Additionally, public accommodations must remove barriers in existing buildings where it is easy to do so without much difficulty or expense, given the public accommodation's resources.

Courses and examinations related to professional, educational, or trade-related applications, licensing, certifications, or credentialing must be provided in a place and manner accessible to people with disabilities, or alternative accessible arrangements must be offered.

Commercial facilities, such as factories and warehouses, must comply with the ADA's architectural standards for new construction and alterations.

Complaints of Title III violations may be filed with the Department of Justice. In certain situations, cases may be referred to a mediation program sponsored by the Department. The Department is authorized to bring a lawsuit where there is a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of Title III, or where an act of discrimination raises an issue of general public importance. Title III may also be enforced through private lawsuits. It is not necessary to file a complaint with the Department of Justice (or any Federal agency), or to receive a "right-to-sue" letter, before going to court. [28 CFR Part 36 \(Title III, Department of Justice\)](#)

For more information:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Disability Rights Section - NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530
(800) 514-0301 (voice)
(800) 514-0383 (TTY)
www.ada.gov

ADA Title IV: Telecommunications Relay Services

Title IV addresses telephone and television access for people with hearing and speech disabilities. It requires common carriers (telephone companies) to establish interstate

and intrastate telecommunications relay services (TRS) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TRS enables callers with hearing and speech disabilities who use telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDDs), which are also known as teletypewriters (TTYs), and callers who use voice telephones to communicate with each other through a third party communications assistant. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set minimum standards for TRS services. Title IV also requires closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements. [47 CFR 64.601 et seq. \(Title IV, FCC\)](#)

For more information about TRS, contact the FCC at:

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
(888) 225-5322 (Voice)
(888) 835-5322 (TTY)
www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended

The Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment, and in the employment practices of federal contractors. The standards for determining employment discrimination under the Rehabilitation Act are the same as those used in Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended

Section 504 states that "no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under" any program or activity that either receives federal financial assistance or is conducted by any executive agency or the United States Postal Service.

Each federal agency has its own set of section 504 regulations that apply to its own programs. Agencies that provide federal financial assistance also have section 504 regulations covering entities that receive federal aid. Requirements common to these regulations include reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities; program accessibility; effective communication with people who have hearing or vision disabilities; and accessible new construction and alterations. Each agency is responsible for enforcing its own regulations. Section 504 may also be enforced through private lawsuits. It is not necessary to file a complaint with a Federal agency or to receive a "right-to-sue" letter before going to court.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended [29 USC § 794](#).

Over 20 Implementing Regulations for federally assisted programs, including:

[34 CFR Part 104](#) (Department of Education)

[45 CFR Part 84](#) (Department of Health and Human Services)

[28 CFR 42.501 et seq.](#)

Over 95 Implementing Regulations for federally conducted programs, including:

[28 CFR Part 39](#) (Department of Justice)

For information on how to file 504 complaints with the appropriate agency, contact:

For More Information:

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Disability Rights Section - NYAV

Washington, D.C. 20530

(800) 514-0301 (voice)

(800) 514-0383 (TTY)

www.ada.gov

For more information on Section 504 planning inclusive of reasonable accommodations, go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>.

Section 508

Section 508 establishes requirements for electronic and information technology developed, maintained, procured, or used by the federal government. Section 508 requires federal electronic and information technology to be accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and members of the public.

An accessible information technology system is one that can be operated in a variety of ways and does not rely on a single sense or ability of the user. For example, a system that provides output only in visual format may not be accessible to people with visual impairments and a system that provides output only in audio format may not be accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Some individuals with disabilities may need accessibility-related software or peripheral devices in order to use systems that comply with Section 508. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended [29 USC § 794d](#).

For more information on section 508, contact:

U.S. General Services Administration

Center for IT Accommodation (CITA)

1800 F Street, N.W.

Room 1234, MC:MKC

Washington, DC 20405-0001

(202) 501-4906 (voice)
(202) 501-2010 (TTY)
www.gsa.gov/section508

Or

U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
1331 F Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004-1111
800-872-2253 (voice)
800-993-2822 (TTY)
www.access-board.gov

Architectural Barriers Act

The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) requires that buildings and facilities that are designed, constructed, or altered with federal funds, or leased by a federal agency, must comply with federal standards for physical accessibility. ABA requirements are limited to architectural standards in new and altered buildings and in newly leased facilities. They do not address the activities conducted in those buildings and facilities. Facilities of the U.S. Postal Service are covered by the ABA. [42 USC §§ 4151 et seq.](#) Implementing Regulation: [41 CFR 101-19.6](#).

For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board
1331 F Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004-1111
(800) 872-2253 (voice)
(800) 993-2822 (TTY)
www.access-board.gov

Telecommunications Act

The Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, require manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and providers of telecommunications services to ensure that such equipment and services are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, if readily achievable. These amendments ensure that people with disabilities will have access to a broad range of products and services such as telephones, cell phones, pagers, call-waiting, and operator services that were often inaccessible to many users with disabilities. [47 USC §§ 255](#), [47 USC §251\(a\)\(2\)](#)

For more information:

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
(888) 225-5322 (Voice)
(888) 835-5322 (TTY)
www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro

Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act, as amended in 1988, prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. Its coverage includes private housing, housing that receives federal financial assistance, and state and local government housing. It is unlawful to discriminate in any aspect of selling or renting housing or to deny a dwelling to a buyer or renter because of the disability of that individual, an individual associated with the buyer or renter, or an individual who intends to live in the residence. Other covered activities include, for example, financing, zoning practices, new construction design, and advertising.

The Fair Housing Act requires owners of housing facilities to make reasonable exceptions in their policies and operations to afford people with disabilities equal housing opportunities. For example, a landlord with a "no pets" policy may be required to grant an exception to this rule and allow an individual who is blind to keep a guide dog in the residence. The Fair Housing Act also requires landlords to allow tenants with disabilities to make reasonable access-related modifications to their private living space, as well as to common use spaces. (The landlord is not required to pay for the changes.) The Act further requires that new multi-family housing with four or more units be designed and built to allow access for persons with disabilities. This includes accessible common use areas, doors that are wide enough for wheelchairs, kitchens and bathrooms that allow a person using a wheelchair to maneuver, and other adaptable features within the units.

Complaints of Fair Housing Act violations may be filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [42 USC §§ 3601 et seq.](#) Implementing Regulation: [24 CFR Parts 100 et seq.](#)

For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

Office of Program Compliance and Disability Rights
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W., Room 5242
Washington, D.C. 20410

(800) 669-9777 (voice)
(800) 927-9275 (TTY)
www.hud.gov/offices/fheo

For questions about the accessibility provisions of the Fair Housing Act, contact Fair Housing FIRST at:

(888) 341-7781 (voice/TTY)
<http://www.fairhousingfirst.org/>

For publications, you may call the Housing and Urban Development Customer Service Center at: (800) 767-7468 (voice/relay)

Additionally, the Department of Justice can file cases involving a pattern or practice of discrimination. The Fair Housing Act may also be enforced through private lawsuits.

Air Carrier Access Act

The Air Carrier Access Act prohibits discrimination in air transportation by domestic and foreign air carriers against qualified individuals with physical or mental impairments. It applies only to air carriers that provide regularly scheduled services for hire to the public. Requirements address a wide range of issues including boarding assistance and certain accessibility features in newly built aircraft and new or altered airport facilities. People may enforce rights under the Air Carrier Access Act by filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Transportation, or by bringing a lawsuit in Federal court. [49 USC § 41705](#) Implementing Regulation: [14 CFR Part 382](#)

For more information contact:

Aviation Consumer Protection Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 4107, C-75
Washington, D.C. 20590
airconsumer.ost.dot.gov
(202) 366-2220 (voice)
(202) 366-0511 (TTY)
(800) 778-4838 (voice)
(800) 455-9880 (TTY)

Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act

The Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to investigate conditions of confinement at State and local government

institutions such as prisons, jails, pretrial detention centers, juvenile correctional facilities, publicly operated nursing homes, and institutions for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities. Its purpose is to allow the Attorney General to uncover and correct widespread deficiencies that seriously jeopardize the health and safety of residents of institutions. The Attorney General does not have authority under CRIPA to investigate isolated incidents or to represent individual institutionalized persons.

The Attorney General may initiate civil lawsuits where there is reasonable cause to believe that conditions are "egregious or flagrant," that they are subjecting residents to "grievous harm," and that they are part of a "pattern or practice" of resistance to residents' full enjoyment of constitutional or federal rights, including Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. [42 USC §§ 1997 et seq](#)

For more information or to bring a matter to the Department of Justice's attention, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Special Litigation Section - PHB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(877) 218-5228 (voice/TTY)
www.usdoj.gov/crt/split

V. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT (IDEIA) PARTS B AND C

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) (formerly called P.L. 94-142 or the Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975) requires public schools to make available to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their individual needs.

IDEIA requires public school systems to develop appropriate Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) for each child. The specific special education and related services outlined in each IEP reflect the individualized needs of each student.

IDEIA also mandates that particular procedures be followed in the development of the IEP. Each student's IEP must be developed by a team of knowledgeable persons and must be at least reviewed annually. The team includes the child's teacher; the parents, subject to certain limited exceptions; the child, if determined appropriate; an agency representative who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education; and other individuals at the parents' or agency's discretion.

If parents disagree with the proposed IEP, they can request a due process hearing and a review from the state educational agency if applicable in that state. They also can appeal the state agency's decision to state or federal court.

For more information about Part B (Children 3-21, please see FAAST Resource Guide General Resource and Self-Help Guide: Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), Reauthorized 2004, found at: http://www.faast.org/atr_trends.cfm

PART C - IDEIA 2004 Early Intervention

The Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities was enacted in 1986 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA [20 USC §§1431 et seq.](#)). IDEA was reauthorized by Congress in 2004. Final federal regulations are found in [34 CFR 303](#). The Florida Early Intervention Program, which is part of the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)(<http://www.fldoe.org>) provides funding and support to all public school districts in Florida for all children with disabilities from ages three through 21 and administers a number of early childhood initiatives and the Florida Department of Health (DOH)(<http://www.doh.state.fl.us>), who coordinates services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. The mission of DOH is to promote and protect the health and safety of all Floridians. It is the state's lead agency for early intervention services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Part C, a federal entitlement program. In Florida, Part C services are administered by Early Steps, Children's Medical Services. http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) works closely with DOH as the state's lead agency for IDEA, Part C, in the provision of quality services for infants and toddlers from birth to age three with established conditions or developmental delays. Since some school districts elect to provide direct services to this population, funds are provided by CMS to support a DOE Part C liaison position to assist in the coordination and implementation of Early Steps, including transition activities, training, and technical assistance to ensure that services are provided to eligible children. <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>

An "infant or toddler with a disability" means a child birth through 2 years who needs early intervention services because the child is experiencing developmental delays (in an area such as cognitive or communication development) or has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of developmental delay.

For Further Information on Birth-2:

Children's Services, Depart. of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707
Telephone: (850)245-4218
Toll Free: (800)654-4440

Website: http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html

Preschool children with disabilities – children ages 3 through 5 - have the same right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) as children in kindergarten through high school. Public schools must evaluate the child to determine eligibility for special education and develop and implement an individualized education program (IEP) in light of the child's individualized needs.

For More Information on ages 3 to 5:

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 601
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Telephone: (850) 245-0478
Website: <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>

Early intervention services are designed to address the particular area(s) of developmental delay. Services may include but are not limited to occupational, physical or speech therapy, psychological services, audiology, vision services, or home visits, depending on the needs of the child and family. Services are delivered in accordance with an "Individualized Family Service Plan," (IFSP) which is similar to an IEP in that it is developed with input from parents and designed to meet the child's individual needs.

Once a child reaches school age (ages 5 through 21), officials with the public school must collaborate with parents to develop an "Individualized Education Program" (IEP) for the student. The IEP describes the special education and related services the public school will provide to meet the child's unique needs. Federal and state law also provide a set of procedures that allow parents to obtain information about their child's education and provide ways for parents to resolve special education disputes with the school system. School age students with disabilities are entitled to receive special education and related services until they graduate from high school with a "regular" diploma, or reach their 22nd birthday, whichever happens first.

http://www.faast.org/atr_trends.cfm

Child Development Services is an agency guided by both Federal and State regulations. The Federal Department of Education has divided Special Services into two age groups, Part C (birth through two years) and Part B (age three to 21). Part B & Part C are sections of the federal law IDEIA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act), which was reauthorized in 2004. IDEIA assures that every child nationwide with disabilities receives services. The law describes how states and public agencies should provide services to children and their families.

Part C: birth-2 years	Part B: 3-21 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part C of IDEA applies to infants and toddlers and their families. - Provides Early Intervention Services (0-2) to every eligible child and their families under the federal grant program. - Utilizes an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) with children and their families. Provides services and education to children in their Natural Environment. - Ensures Local Service Access to all children. - Encourages Active Parent Involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part B of IDEA applies to children 3 through 21 years of age, while Section 619 of Part B applies specifically to children 3 to 5 years. - Provides Special Education and Related Services under the Free and Appropriate Education Act (FAPE). - Utilizes an Individual Education Program (IEP) with children and their families. - Provides services and education to children in the Least Restrictive Environment. - Ensures Local Service Access to all children. - Encourages Active Parent Involvement.

Information about IDEA in its entirety can be found through: <http://idea.ed.gov/> or our recent resource guide at http://www.faast.org/atr_trends.cfm.

Screening, Referral and Assessment under IDEA Part C

Policies and procedures regarding Screening, Referral and Evaluation are critical elements in the ability of an infant and toddler to access the early intervention system. Part C regulations require states to establish a Child Find and referral process designed to ensure the ability of families and referral sources to access the Part C system.

The Early Steps system shall provide for each child and family to receive:

- A multidisciplinary team assessment of the unique strengths and needs of the infant and toddler and the identification of early intervention services appropriate to meet their needs.
- A family assessment of the resources, priorities and concerns of the family and the identification of the early intervention services and supports necessary to enhance the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of the infant or toddler.
- A written Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) developed by a multidisciplinary team including the parents. The ESSO shall ensure that a written IFSP is developed and implemented for each eligible child. [34 CFR 303.340\(c\)](#)
- The current departmentally approved Early Steps IFSP form must be used by all Local Early Step Programs. For complete information on the IFSP form and instructions on preparation, go to [http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/training/documents/IFSP_Instructions_web.pdf#search="ifsp"](http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/training/documents/IFSP_Instructions_web.pdf#search=).

- A copy of the interim IFSP, if applicable, initial and annual evaluation of the IFSP as well as a copy of each periodic review of the IFSP will be provided to the family and all IFSP team members (with parental consent) within 15 calendar days of the IFSP meeting. IFSP meetings are arranged by the service coordinator and held in settings and at times convenient to the family and in the native language of the family or other mode of communication used by the family, unless it is not feasible to do so. [34 CFR 303.342\(d\)\(1\)\(i\)\(ii\)](#).
- The service coordinator must make arrangements for IFSP meetings with the family and other IFSP team members and provide notification in writing before the meeting date. [34 CFR 303.342\(d\)\(2\)](#)
- In situations where multiple agencies/programs are serving the child and/or family, representatives from those agencies will be notified of the IFSP meeting by the service coordinator as appropriate, and with parental consent.
- With parental consent, an interim IFSP may be written to begin early intervention services prior to the completion of the evaluation and/or assessment when determined that early intervention services are needed immediately for the eligible child and the child's family. [34 CFR 303.345\(b\)](#)

An interim IFSP must include:

- The name of the service coordinator;
- Outcomes, if feasible, and to the extent possible; and
- The early intervention services. [34 CFR 303.345\(b\)](#)

When an interim IFSP is completed, the evaluation and/or assessment must still be completed and an initial IFSP developed within the 45 day timeframe from the date of referral. [34 CFR 303.345\(c\)](#)

Persons directly involved in conducting the evaluation and/or assessment who is unable to attend the initial IFSP meeting must be involved through other means, e.g., telephone conference call, a designated knowledgeable representative, videoconferencing or making available pertinent records to the participants at the initial IFSP meeting. [34 CFR 303.343\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)\(ii\)\(iii\)](#)

For additional information on what should be in an individual family support plan (IFSP), see: **Attachment 2**.

For more information:

Lynn Marie Price, Bureau Chief for Early Interventions (or designee)
 Children's Medical Services
 Early Steps
 State Department of Health
 4052 Bald Cypress Way SE, BIN A06

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707
Phone: (850) 245-4200
Fax: (850) 921-5241
Alt Phone: (800) 654-4440 (Main)
Email: lynnmarie_price@doh.state.fl.us
Website: http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html

Or

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-7100
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep
(202) 245-7468 (voice/TTY)

Federal And State Laws Regarding Early Intervention

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1997 and 2004, Public Law 105-17 and Public Law 108-446, as amended, Parts C and B
- Federal Regulations, 34 CFR Parts 300 and 303
- Chapters 391 and 393, Florida Statutes
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03026, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Special Programs for Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03029, FAC Development of Family Support Plans for Children with Disabilities Ages Birth through Five Years
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03030, FAC Special Programs for Children Birth through Two Years Old who have Established Conditions
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03031, FAS Special Programs for Children Birth through Two Years Old who are Developmentally Delayed
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03032, FAC Procedural Safeguards for Children Ages Birth through Two Years with Disabilities
- State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03311, FAC Procedural Safeguards for Students with Disabilities.

Due Process Rights Under Part C Of IDEIA

If you have a complaint alleging violations of federal laws relating to your infants and toddlers with developmental delays or established conditions under Part C of IDEIA, you can request a due process hearing, mediation, or file a complaint related to eligibility, evaluation or service provision to a child under IDEIA, Part C. Complaint investigations and/or due process hearings are conducted, pursuant to [34 CFR 303.420-.425 and 303.510-.512](#)
http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/reports/program_performance.html

For more information, contact:

Part C Coordinator, Department of Health/Children's Medical Services/
 Early Steps State Office
 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A06,
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1707
 (850) 245-4200

VI. STATE PROGRAMS

Many Programs in Florida are implemented by interagency agreements for a smooth delivery of services. This chart represents those agreements as defined by Florida Statute or Federal Law.

Chart of Interagency Agreements

Title	Participating Departments/Agencies	Description	Additional Information
Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program	Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps, Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, Florida Department of Education, Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Children and Families, Head Start, Early Head Start and related programs, and Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	Define and clarify the responsibilities of each agency in order to ensure the statewide provision of coordinated quality early intervention services, including transition and family-centered services in natural environments for children with disabilities from birth to three years of age and their families.	Addresses development of joint initiatives; non-duplication of early intervention services; awareness of full range of services available; sharing of training, technical assistance and assistive technology resources; development of interagency agreements among local agencies; and outlines specific individual agency and joint responsibilities. Established to meet requirements of the IDEIA, Part C, Early Intervention Services.
Support for Children in Child Welfare	Department of Education, Department of Children & Families, Agency for Workforce Innovation	Review and ensure coordination of rules, regulations, policies and procedures relative to the education, special	Requires agency designees to meet annually, at a minimum, and make recommendations to the

		education and related services, job training and employment of children in the child welfare system; define and establish communication protocols; promote joint updating of policies and staff training; provide access to pertinent staff and parent training opportunities; coordinate efforts addressing educational stabilization, transportation, data and information-sharing to the extent possible and case planning.	Secretary of DCF, the Commissioner of Education and the Director of AWI; addresses appointment of district school board, regional workforce board and DCF district/regional liaisons.
Assistive Technology	Department of Health, Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program, Department of Education, Division of Blind Services, Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Office of Early Learning, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Office of Early Learning, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services	Provide a mechanism by which a youth with disabilities, or parent, are informed of assistive technology devices to support transitions and may request that an assistive technology device remain with the youth as she or he moves through the continuum from home to school, to another school district, to postsecondary institutions, to state or community agencies, to employment facilities and to community living facilities.	Established based on 1003.575, Florida Statutes.
Infants and Toddlers with Sensory Loss	Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Outreach Services, Parent Infant Program	Facilitate delivery of appropriate and quality early intervention services to children, ages birth to 36 months, with sensory loss (vision and/or hearing) and their families by clarifying roles and responsibilities of each agency.	
Students with Disabilities Support for Transition	Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Division of Vocational	Encourage and facilitate cooperation and collaboration among local leadership and staff in order to provide a smooth	Established to address requirements of the IDEIA; addresses development of joint service

	Rehabilitation, Division of Blind Services, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Department of Children and Families, Mental Health, and Agency for Persons with Disabilities	and successful transition of students with disabilities to gainful and sustained employment or postsecondary education with access to adult health care and mental health services.	plans for students.
Self-employment of Youth with Disabilities	Agency for Workforce Innovation, Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Support self-employment for adults and youth with disabilities.	
Student Medicaid Medical Services Coordination	Department of Education, Agency for Healthcare Administration	Provide for school districts to check students' Medicaid eligibility and obtain Medicaid reimbursement for medical services provided by school districts to students with disabilities.	
Students with Disabilities Service Coordination	Department of Education, Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Ensure services to persons with disabilities, including developing and enhancing supported employment.	Established based on Chapters 393 and 413, Florida Statutes in 2005.
One-stop Center Services	Department of Education, Agency for Workforce Innovation	Strengthen the one-stop system, including the role of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.	Established based on Chapter 413, Florida Statutes.
Student Transitional Support Services	Department of Education, Department of Children and Families	Provide for aftercare services, transitional support services, and the Road to Independence Program (RTI), which assists students who are in high school and those who have enrolled in postsecondary education.	Established based on Chapter 409.1451(5)(b), Florida Statutes.
Services to Homeless Children and Families	Department of Education, Department of Children and Families	Provide services to homeless children and to the families of such children and youth, as needed.	Established based on 1003.21(1)(f), Florida Statutes
Coordinated School Health	Department of Education, Department of Health	Ensure cooperative interagency planning,	Established to meet requirements of

		development, implementation and the coordination of effective policies, programs and budgets concerning the Coordinated School Health model as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).	section 381.0056 & 1003.453(3)(c), Florida Statutes.
Independent Living	Department of Education, Florida Independent Living Council	Delineate responsibilities regarding state plan for independent living.	Established to meet requirements of section 413.395, Florida Statutes.
Services for the Deaf and Blind	Department of Education, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	Provide coordination to ensure maximum benefits to eligible consumers.	Established to meet requirements of the IDEIA, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, & Chapter 413, Florida Statutes.
Pre-kindergarten Services for Children with Disabilities	Department of Education, Head Start Programs	Development of programs designed to provide special education and related services to prekindergarten children with disabilities and their families.	Established to meet requirements of the IDEIA.

Medicaid

A Federal/State Program designed to provide medical assistance to persons with low income that qualify and cannot obtain medical coverage. Persons who receive SSI from the Social Security Administration are automatically eligible to receive Medicaid in Florida.

Federal Medicaid site: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/>

State Medicaid site: <http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us>

Children receiving services through Medicaid Waiver can also receive Medicaid without qualifying for SSI based on parents' income.

For more information on SSI, visit: http://www.ssa.gov/SSA_Home.html

The following acts cover Medicaid:

- [Title XIX of the Social Security Act,](#)
- [Title 42 CFR,](#)
- [Chapter 409, F.S.](#)
- [Chapter 59G, FAC.](#)

Children's Medical Services (CMS)

CMS provides services to children with special health care needs through a family-centered managed system of care. Services are provided through an integrated statewide system that includes local, regional and tertiary care facilities and providers.

[Chapter 391 F.S.](#)

<http://www.cms-kids.com/>

(See **Attachment 3** for office locations)

Children's Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Team (CMAT)

When a child has a very serious medical condition that may require long-term care, or if a child is referred for [Medical Foster Care](#), a special team called the Children's Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (CMAT) may review the case. The CMAT may recommend long-term care services for children with very complex medical issues. For children referred for Medical Foster Care, the CMAT might make decisions about the types of care that are required. The CMAT reviews the child's medical record along with facts about the child's psychological and social needs to make these recommendations.

CMAT was created as a way to make sure children who were receiving high cost, long term medical services were getting care of the highest quality. The CMAT team includes the family and representatives from Children's Medical Services (Department of Health), Agency for Health Care Administration (Medicaid Program), and Community Based Care (Department of Children and Families). Children's Medical Services leads the coordination of the teams.

There are several reasons why a child's case might be staffed by CMAT:

- The child is referred for Medical Foster Care
- The child might need to be admitted to a Skilled Nursing Facility
- To decide if new or different services are needed (continuity of care)
- The child is a Medicaid Model Waiver applicant and requires a level of care determination

The CMAT may staff any Medicaid eligible child less than 21 years of age who has a medically complex or medically fragile condition that requires 24-hour a day continual medical, nursing or health supervision. Medical documentation must support the need for long-term care services.

For additional information, contact the CMAT program at (850) 245-4200, or contact your local [CMS office](#) and ask for a CMAT team member.

Medical Foster Care

Sometimes children with chronic medical conditions cannot be cared for in their family home. For these children, the Medical Foster Care (MFC) Program provides home-based care that allows a foster child with a chronic medical condition to grow and develop within a family setting outside of their own.

Medical foster parents are specially trained to provide personal care services for these children. One of this program's most important roles is to ultimately return the child to their birth family by training the family to care for their child's special medical needs.

The program offers many services to the children, their birth families, and to the medical foster parents. These services include:

- 24-hour call-in system for medical support;
- A team of healthcare providers that include a pediatrician, nurse, and social worker. This team coordinates care for the children with medical specialists, hospitals, equipment providers, therapists, health facilities, schools, foster care staff, and families; and
- For those children who cannot be returned to their birth families, assistance is provided to find loving and nurturing adoptive parents.

Once a child leaves medical foster care, MFC Program staff provides follow-up to make certain that the child continues to receive the services they need.

Eligibility:

- Medicaid eligible child or young adult (age 0-20)
- Child or young adult who is in the custody of the Department of Children and Families
- Child or young adult with a special health care need that can be cared for in a home setting

Children or young adults seeking care from MFC must provide written consent from a parent, guardian, legal custodian, or court.

Children who are served by MFC will also be referred to the Children's Multidisciplinary Assessment Team for recommendations.

For more information about the MFC Program or how to become an MFC parent, contact your local [CMS Area Office](#).

Early Steps

Early Steps is a statewide family-focused, multidisciplinary, system of early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, with a developmental delay or an established condition likely to result in developmental delay. Services are provided by 15 Early Steps offices (referred to as the Local Early Steps) that are contracted through community based organizations across the State of Florida. The Early Steps system has the following components: the Developmental Evaluation and Intervention (DEI) Program, the IDEA Part C Program, and services provided under [Chapter 393 F.S.](#) for children birth to 3 months. <http://www.cms-kids.com/> (See **Attachment 3** for office locations)

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

Provisions require that all Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21 receive screening, diagnostic and treatment services. Treatment services consist of all services listed in the Medicaid Act necessary to "correct or ameliorate" physical and mental conditions and illnesses, regardless of whether those services are covered for adults. [42 USC § 1396a\(a\)\(43\)](#), [1396d\(r\)\(5\)](#) (referring to services listed in [1396d\(a\)](#)).

All children and youth receiving Home and Community-Based (HCB) Waiver services are eligible for full EPSDT benefits. This applies equally to children receiving services under an HCB waiver, even if that child would not be eligible in the absence of the waiver.

[http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/05_HCBSWaivers-Section1915\(c\).asp](http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/05_HCBSWaivers-Section1915(c).asp)

Moreover, while states may place limits on services offered under an HCB waiver, they may not place limitations on necessary services covered by EPSDT. However, the Medicaid Act allows states to limit waiver participants to individuals that the state reasonably believes would cost more to serve under the waiver than they would at the comparable level of institutional care. [42 USC §1396n\(c\)\(4\)\(A\)](#) In addition, Florida's Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP) provides services to children and adults who have sustained moderate to severe brain or spinal cord injuries. In contrast to the BSCI waiver, which provides longer term services to more severely injured individuals, the BSCIP provides short-term, post-injury rehabilitation services including acute care services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, community-based living services and adaptive modifications. <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/BrainSC/index.html>

EPSDT service is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21. EPSDT was defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89) legislation and includes periodic screening, vision, dental, and hearing services. In addition, [Section 1905\(r\)\(5\)](#) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires that any medically necessary health care service

listed at [Section 1905\(a\)](#) of the Act be provided to an EPSDT recipient even if the service is not available under the State's Medicaid plan to the rest of the Medicaid population.

The EPSDT program consist of two mutually supportive, operational components: (1) assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources; and (2) helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use these resources. These components enable Medicaid agencies to manage a comprehensive child health program of prevention and treatment, to seek out eligible individuals and inform them of the benefits of prevention and the health services and assistance available and to help them and their families use health resources, including their own talents and knowledge, effectively and efficiently. It also enables them to assess the child's health needs through initial and periodic examinations and evaluations, and also to assure that the health problems found are diagnosed and treated early, before they become more complex and their treatment more costly.

For more information, go to: <http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidEarlyPeriodicScrn/>

Also see **Attachment 4: Important Points to Consider in EPSDT**

Medicaid Child Health Services-Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC)

Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) centers are non-residential health care centers for Medicaid eligible children from birth through age 20 with medically-complex conditions that require continuous therapeutic or skilled nursing supervision. PPECs include an array of services focused on meeting the medical, developmental, physical, nutritional, and social needs of the children who require short, long-term, or intermittent services. When approved, children can attend a PPEC up to a maximum of 12 hours per day while their parents or guardians are unavailable to care for them. PPECs provide a less restrictive alternative to institutionalization, and reduce the isolation that homebound children may experience.

To enroll as a Medicaid provider, a PPEC must be licensed pursuant to [Chapter 400 Part VI, F.S.](#), and be in compliance with Chapter [59A-13, FAC](#).

For more information:

Bureau of Long Term Care Services
Molly McKinstry, Chief
Bureau of Long Term Care Services
2727 Mahan Drive, MS#51
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 412-4302
(850) 410-1512 FAX

For a list of these services see:

<http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/FacilityLocator/ListFacilities.aspx>
[PPEC Statutes -- Florida Statutes \(F.S.\), Chapter 400, Part VI](#)
[PPEC Rules -- Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\), Chapter 59A-13](#)

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)

The mission of DCF is to protect the vulnerable and promote strong and economically self sufficient families, in addition to advancing personal and family recovery and resiliency. The following provides detailed information on the laws and requirements that governs the operation of child care facilities and homes within the State of Florida.

F.S. § 402.26 - 402.319

Operation of family day care and large family child care homes. Includes requirements for application; personnel; health; health records for the children in care as well as personnel; and the penalties that may be imposed for non-compliance with standards.

[Chapter 65C-20, FAC](#)

Family Day Care/Large Family Child Care Homes /Family Day Care Standard Classifications

Large Family Child Care Standard Classifications

Requirements to operate child care facilities. Includes requirements for application; license; minimum age; ratios; supervision; transportation; planned activities; discipline; access to parents; physical environment both indoors and outdoors; training for child care personnel; health; food and nutrition; records for both children and child care personnel; and care of children during evening hours. [Chapter 65C-22, FAC](#)

Child Care Facility/Center -Facility/Center Standard Classifications

Use the link above ([Chapter 65C-22, FAC](#)) to view the requirements to operate specialized child care facilities for mildly-ill children and children suffering short-term illnesses or symptoms. [Chapter 65C-25, FAC](#)

For additional information, go to the Florida Department of Children and Families' home page: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/>

Office of Family Safety

The Office of Family Safety in DCF is responsible for policy development and oversight of child protection. Its functions include support for state and private programs that help child victims of abuse and neglect and support and promotion of the adoption of foster children. <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/>

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

This Act has a significant requirement for States to have provisions and procedures for the referral of children under the age of three who are involved in substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA. Florida has defined “substantiated” as any case with verified findings of child abuse or neglect. In addition, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 contains requirements regarding the referral of children to Part C who are under the age of three and involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect, or affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms from prenatal drug exposure ([20 USC Sec. 1437\(a\)\(6\)\(A\) and \(B\)](#)).

Florida KidCare

Through Florida KidCare, the State of Florida offers health insurance for children from birth through age 18, even if one or both parents are working. It includes four different parts. When you apply for the insurance, Florida KidCare will check which part your child may qualify for based on age and family income.

- [MEDIKIDS](#): children ages 1 through 4;
- [HEALTHY KIDS](#): children ages 5 through 18;
- [CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES NETWORK](#): children birth through 18 who have special health care needs; and
- [MEDICAID](#): children birth through 18. A child who has other health insurance may still qualify for Medicaid.

More information on these programs can be found at: <http://www.floridakidcare.org/>

In May 2008, [SB 2534](#) was enacted which removes the enrollment cap for children in the MediKids and Florida Healthy Kids buy-in programs. Children in families with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for enrollment in these buy-in programs. Previously, the enrollment of children in these buy-in programs was limited to 10% percent of the total program enrollment. In 2009, [SB 918](#) (Chapter 113; effective July 1, 2009) was enacted, which amends the Florida Kidcare Act. The law reduces the waiting period from 60 to 30 days for reinstatement of coverage upon voluntary cancellation for nonpayment of premiums. The law also reduces the waiting period from 6 months to 60 days for a child who is otherwise eligible to enroll in the premium assistance Florida Kidcare program. An eligible child for premium assistance under the Florida Kidcare program may participate if the cost of the family member's health insurance benefit plan is greater than 5 percent of the family's income. In addition, the law specifies that electronic verification of a family's income shall be used to determine financial eligibility for the Florida Kidcare program. www.floridakidcare.org

Some of the services Florida KidCare covers are:

Doctor visits	Emergencies
Check-ups and shots	Vision and hearing
Hospital	Dental
Surgery	Mental health
Prescriptions	

Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver

Also known as Med Waiver, HCBS Waiver, Waiver or DD/HCBS. The HCBS Waiver program (Home and Community-Based Waiver) is funded by the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and matching state dollars. In Florida, the HCBS Waiver is administered by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The waiver program provides necessary supports and services to people who have specific developmental disabilities so that they may remain in the community and avoid placement in an institution. Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver programs are authorized under section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act and governed by [Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations \(C.F.R.\), Parts 440 and 441, Section 409.906](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.) and [Chapter 59G, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#) authorize the Florida Medicaid DD waiver. Specific statutory authority for the promulgation of the Florida Medicaid Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Handbook into rule is found in the following provisions of law: sections [408.302 and 409.919, F.S.](#) The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has final authority on all policies, procedures, rules, regulations, manuals, and handbooks pertaining to the waiver. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is authorized by AHCA to operate and oversee the waiver in accordance with the Interagency Agreement for Medicaid between AHCA and APD regarding the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community-Based Services (DD) Waiver.

http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/Medicaid/dev_serv/index.shtml

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

Their mission is to promote opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities to be a part of and participate in the same valued experiences and life events as do other citizens of Florida. Some of the initiatives of the DD Program include:

- Support to families
- Coordination with special education and local education agencies
- Community based employment opportunities including supported employment. This program provides supports and services that make it easier for people to live, work, and play in places of their own choice.

"Developmental Disability" is a broad term that refers to a variety of conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. [Chapter 393, F.S.](#) defines developmental disabilities in the statute as spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, Prader-Willi syndrome and mental retardation.

- **Spina Bifida** means a divided backbone or spine. When a person has spina bifida, the spine and the cord inside the spine do not grow the way most spines grow. Normally, the spinal cord carries messages from the brain to other parts of the body, but when a person has spina bifida, the spinal cord does not carry all of the messages to the rest of the body.
- **Autism** is a condition characterized by impairment in social interactions and communication abilities and unusual or restricted ranges of play and interest. Autism results in social isolation and varying degrees of unusual behaviors.
- **Cerebral Palsy (CP)** - "Cerebral" means the brain. "Palsy" means moving of the muscles in a way that the person can't control. It refers to a group of motor disabilities that arise because of injury to the developing brain before or during birth or during the first year of life. These motor disabilities do not get worse over time. Cerebral palsy keeps the brain from telling the rest of the body some of the things it is supposed to do. Despite significant motor impairment, many people with CP have normal intelligence.
- **Mental Retardation** refers to significant limitations in functioning related to sub-average intelligence with onset prior to the age of 18 and expected to last indefinitely. People who have mental retardation learn more slowly than other people and might need assistance in areas like communication, self-care, self-direction, health and safety, leisure, work and functional academics. While the term is still clinically correct, "intellectual disability" is becoming the preferred term.
- **Prader-Willi Syndrome** is an inherited condition. A severe lack of muscle tone and failure to thrive are present in early infancy. Later on, excessive drive to eat usually leads to significant weight problems. Obsessive-compulsive behaviors and difficulty with social interactions are often present. People with Prader-Willi syndrome are usually short with small hands and feet. They typically are mildly mentally retarded.

For more information on APD visit: <http://apd.myflorida.com/>

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (Not Social Security)

SSI pays monthly benefits to people who are blind or have a disability and who do not own much or have a lot of income. SSI is not just for adults. Monthly benefits can also go to children who have a disability. Disabled means you have a physical or mental challenge that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least a year or to result in death. When deciding if a child is disabled, the Social Security Administration looks at how his or her disability affects everyday life. People who get SSI usually get food stamps and Medicaid, too. Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills.

SSI is not based on past earnings. Instead, eligibility is based on earnings and resources of the adult (18 years or more) or based on the earnings and resources of the parents of children who are younger than 18 years of age. You may also be contacted by Florida's vocational rehabilitation agency and they may offer you help so that individuals can return to work. If you refuse to accept these services, your SSI benefits can be stopped.

Title XVI of the Social Security Act is administered by the Social Security Administration. This Title XVI appears in the [USC as §§1381-1383f, subchapter XVI, chapter 7, Title 42.](#) Regulations with respect to this [Title XVI are contained in chapter III, Title 20, CFR.](#) For links to more applicable sites of laws and regulations governing SSI, go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/law-regs-finder.htm#gen-law>. For more information about SSI, visit: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/index.htm>

Women-Infant-Children (WIC) Program

Federal/State program that provides Food, nutrition counseling, and access to health services are provided to low-income women, infants, and children under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, popularly known as WIC.

WIC provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Established as a pilot program in 1972 and made permanent in 1974, WIC is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Formerly known as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC's name was changed under the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994, in order to emphasize its role as a nutrition program.

Most State WIC programs provide vouchers that participants use at authorized food stores. A wide variety of State and local organizations cooperate in providing the food and health care benefits, and 46,000 merchants nationwide accept WIC vouchers.

WIC is effective in improving the health of pregnant women, new mothers, and their infants. A 1990 study showed that women who participated in the program during their pregnancies had lower Medicaid costs for themselves and their babies than did women who did not participate. WIC participation was also linked with longer gestation periods, higher birthweights and lower infant mortality.

[Code of Federal Regulation: Title 7, Agriculture, Chapter II, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, Part 246, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, 7 CFR 246](#)

[Code of Federal Regulation: Title 7, Agriculture, Chapter II, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, Part 247, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, 7 CFR 247](#)

[Code of Federal Regulation: Title 7, Agriculture, Chapter II, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, Part 248, WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program \(FMNP\), 7 CFR 248](#)

For More information:

Deborah Eibeck, MS, RD, LD,
Chief Bureau of WIC and Nutrition Services
Florida Department of Health
Bin #A-16, HSFW
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1726 toll-free in-state: 1-800-342-3556
voice: (850) 245-4202
fax: (850) 922-3936
email: Debbie_Eibeck@doh.state.fl.us
website: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wic/>

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Vocational rehabilitation services help people with disabilities live more independent lives by providing education, support, and services to assist them with becoming employed. The department works with middle schools, high schools, and higher education to help students with disabilities access appropriate supports for employment and independence such as job coaching, teaching skills, support in job placement, assistive and adaptive supports, and more. The Rehabilitation Act was first passed in 1973. Congress, pursuant to Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, gives money to states to provide VR services to persons with disabilities. [34 CFR Part 361](#). To receive funding, a state must submit a plan consistent with the law. [29 USC § 721](#). It must designate a single state agency to administer the plan, unless it designates a second agency to provide services to individuals who are blind.

For More Information:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of Education
2002 Old St. Augustine Road, Building A
Tallahassee, FL 32301-4862
Telephone: (850)488-6210
Toll Free: (800)451-4327
Website: <http://www.rehabworks.org/>

Mental Health Services Agency

State mental health agencies provide services to individuals and families dealing with mental illness, mental retardation, and substance abuse. Services include advocacy, nursing home screening, psychiatric services, intervention, coordination of treatment, case management, and more.

The Mental Health Parity Act (MHPA) is legislation signed into law on September 26, 1996 that requires that annual or lifetime dollar limits on mental health be no lower than any such dollar limits for medical and surgical benefits offered by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering coverage in connection with a group health plan. MHPA was largely superseded by rider legislation on the [Troubled Asset Relief Program](#) (TARP), signed into law by President Bush in October 2008. The Act is part of the [Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008](#).

For More Information:
Mental Health Programs Office
Department of Children and Families
1317 Winewood Boulevard, Building 6, Room 275
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700
Telephone: (850)488-8304
Website: www.state.fl.us/cf_web/

VII. PROGRAMS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND CHILDREN IN FLORIDA

General

Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services (FLAIRS):

The mission of the Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services (FLAIRS) is to strengthen the health and human service information and referral provider network in the State of Florida through advocacy, coordination and education. It is recognized that information and referral (I&R) programs help individuals, families and communities identify, understand and effectively use the programs that are part of the human service delivery system. At the community level, I&R services facilitate long-range planning by tracking requests for service and identifying gaps and duplications in services. I&R services also work with other human service organizations to make them a better resource for their clients. Professional I&R specialists help people understand their problems and make informed decisions about possible solutions. They may advocate on behalf of those who need special support and reinforce the individual's capacity for self-reliance and self-determination through education, affirmation, collaborative planning and problem solving. <http://www.flairs.org/>

Advocacy

Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities

To advance the quality of life, dignity, equality, self-determination, and freedom of choice of persons with disabilities through collaboration, education, advocacy, as well as legal and legislative strategies. <http://www.advocacycenter.org/>

Southeast Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center

Southeast ADA Center (Southeast DBTAC) offers five core services to promote awareness about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessible information technology (IT), and the rights and abilities of people with disabilities through our Network Structure and Affiliates to serve eight (8) states in the U.S. Southeast Region. <http://www.sedbtac.org/>

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization for people with mental illness and mental retardation. Its website includes current advocacy "alerts" as well as a wealth of advocacy resources relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, child welfare, children's mental health services, choices in mental health treatment (advance directive), community services for older people, custody relinquishment to access mental health care, fair housing for people with disabilities, managed behavioral health care, Medicaid, mental health care, outpatient commitment, palliative care advocacy, and SSI for children. <http://www.bazelon.org/>

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

CCD is "a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society." Its web pages highlight legislative issues that concern its members and tasks forces, with related announcements and links.

<http://www.c-c-d.org/>

The Council for Disability Rights

This straightforward website includes an A.D.A. FAQ (for non-lawyers), "The CDR Guide to Disability Rights (and dealing with the system)," "A Parent's Guide to Special Ed / Special Needs," how to take action against structural barriers, voting resources & election information, and more. <http://www.disabilityrights.org/>

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

DREDF is "a national law and policy center dedicated to protecting and advancing the civil rights of people with disabilities through legislation, litigation, advocacy, technical assistance, and education and training of attorneys, advocates, persons with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities." Its website includes legislative alerts and news bulletins as well as information about the organization. <http://www.dredf.org/>

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, the P&A/CAP network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States. Through training and technical assistance, legal support, and legislative advocacy, the National Disability Rights Network works to create a society in which people with disabilities are afforded equality of opportunity and are able to fully participate by exercising choice and self-determination. <http://www.napas.org/>

Southern Poverty Law Center

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society. <http://www.splcenter.org/>

Legal Aid

The American Constitution guarantees equal justice under the law, but those words mean little unless everyone has access to our legal system.

If you have a civil legal problem but cannot afford to hire a private lawyer, you still may have access to the legal system through your local legal services-legal aid organization which provides free or low cost legal services to persons with low incomes.

In Florida, the attempt to provide legal services for those who could not afford a lawyer was given statewide support during the early 1970s when The Florida Bar, along with the governor's office, set up a nonprofit organization in Tallahassee to promote the expansion of legal services in Florida. That organization is Florida Legal Services, Inc. <http://www.floridabar.org/>
(See Attachment 5 for a complete list by county of legal aid offices)

AIDS/HIV

Florida Department of Health AIDS/HIV

In this site, you will find a variety of information regarding our many programs, services, functions, and publications, as well as other information that may be helpful regarding AIDS/HIV.

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/aids/index.html

Asperger Syndrome

Online Asperger Syndrome Information and Support (OASIS) Center

has joined with MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome to create a single resource for families, individuals, and medical professionals who deal with the challenges of Asperger Syndrome, Autism, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder / Not Otherwise Specified (PDD/NOS).

<http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/>

Assistive Technology

Florida Alliance For Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)

To improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. For more information about FAAST, please see the "About FAAST" section located in the beginning of this document.

<http://faast.org/>

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

Heartland CHADD

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) is a national non-profit, tax-exempt (Section 501 (c) (3)) organization providing education, advocacy and support for individuals with AD/HD. In addition to the informative website, CHADD also publishes a variety of printed materials to keep members and professionals current on research advances, medications and treatments affecting individuals with AD/HD. These materials include Attention! magazine, the CHADD Information and Resource Guide to AD/HD, News From CHADD, a free electronically mailed current events newsletter, as well as other publications of specific interest to educators, professionals and parents.

<http://www.chadd.org/>

Autism

Autism Society of America

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Both children and adults with autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities. One should keep in mind however, that autism is a spectrum disorder and it affects each individual differently and at varying degrees - this is why early diagnosis is so crucial. By learning the signs, a child can begin benefiting from one of the many specialized intervention programs. Autism is one of five disorders that falls under the umbrella of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), a category of neurological disorders

characterized by “severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development.”

The five disorders under PDD are:

Autistic Disorder
Asperger's Disorder
Childhood Disintegrative Disorder (CDD)
Rett's Disorder
PDD-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

For information on local chapters in Florida, see:

[Autism Society of America - Broward Chapter](#)

PO Box 450476
Sunrise FL
(954) 577-4141

[Autism Society of Florida](#)

PO Box 970646
Coconut Creek FL (954) 349-2820

[Autism Society of the Palm Beaches](#)

2100 C Linton Lake Drive
Delray Beach FL
(561) 688-9010

[Emerald Coast Chapter - Autism Society of America](#)

Emerald Coast Chapter
8668 Navarre Parkway # 216
Navarre, FL 32566

[Gulf Coast FL Chapter- Autism Society of America](#)

PO Box 21105
St. Petersburg FL
(727) 786-4292

[Miami-Dade Chapter- Autism Society of America](#)

P.O. Box 831405
Miami FL
(305) 969-3900

Blindness and Visual Impairments

Division of Blind Services

The Division of Blind Services is Florida's state agency responsible for ensuring that people of all ages in the state who are blind or visually impaired can live independently and achieve their goals. Also, its Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library administers a free library program of Braille and recorded materials for eligible readers. <http://dbs.myflorida.com/>

The Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) is a statewide resource center designed to assist schools in obtaining specialized materials for students with visual impairments. Established in 1972 by the Florida Legislature, FIMC-VI operates under the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services through a grant agreement with the School District of Hillsborough County. FIMC-VI serves students with visual impairments enrolled in Florida's public and private schools and teachers in those schools, both exceptional student educators and regular educators, who work with visually impaired students.

There is no charge for any services offered by FIMC-VI. Materials are produced by the Center staff, prepared by certified volunteer transcribers, and/or purchased by the Center. These materials are then loaned to schools within Florida. Consultation and training are also provided to instructional personnel throughout the State at no charge. <http://www.fimcvi.org/>

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

Brain Injury Association of Florida

The mission of this Association is to improve the quality of life for persons with brain injury and their families by creating a better future through brain injury awareness, prevention, research, education, support services, and advocacy. BIAF is a non-profit organization, founded in 1985 by the mother of a young man who sustained a traumatic brain injury from an automobile crash. It is an organization of individuals with brain injuries, their families, and professionals working to help people cope with the long term effects of brain injury. BIAF is the official state association of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) in Alexandria, VA and as such is tied to a nationwide network. <http://www.biaf.org/>

Florida Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP)

The Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP) is administered by the Florida Department of Health. The program is funded through a percentage of traffic related fines, surcharges for driving or boating under the influence, fees on temporary license tags, and a percentage of fees from the motorcycle specialty tag. Florida Statutes 381.76 requires that an individual must be a legal Florida resident who has sustained a moderate-to-severe traumatic brain or spinal cord injury meeting the state's definition of such injuries; has been referred to the

BSCIP Central Registry; and must be medically stable to be eligible for services. There must also be a reasonable expectation that with the provision of appropriate services and supports, the person can return to a community-based setting, rather than reside in a skilled nursing facility. <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/> BSCIP services are provided through five regional offices. For more information please contact the regional office nearest to you.

Region 1

3974 Woodcock Drive,
Suite 101B
Midtown Centre, 2000 Building
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: 904/348-2755

Region 2

3751 Maguire Boulevard, Langley
Building Suite 212
Orlando, FL 32803
Phone: 407/897-5964

Region 3

9400 4th Street North, Suite 212
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone: 727/570-3427

Region 4

2550 W. Oakland Park Boulevard
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
Phone: 954/677-5639

Region 5

401 NW 2nd Avenue,
Room S-221
Miami, FL 33128
Phone: 305/377-5464

Cerebral Palsy

United Cerebral Palsy Association

When you are raising a child with cerebral palsy, sometimes the only thing that provides comfort and relief is knowing that you are not alone. Connecting with other parents in your community to discuss the ups and downs of daily life will help both you and your child find friends you can count on when it feels like no one else understands. You can find this kind of support system through your local United Cerebral Palsy Association. Each chapter is locally run and provides you with information about cerebral palsy, news, local events, and social and recreational programs. Local chapters also advocate better services for the disabled in your community. <http://www.cerebralpalsy.org/>
Please see their website for chapters in Florida.

Other Resources

Florida Network on Disabilities

A national network of individuals of all ages who may be at-risk, have disabilities, or have special needs and their families, professionals, and concerned citizens. The mission of Family Network on Disabilities is to ensure through collaboration that individuals have full access to family-driven support, education, information, resources, and advocacy and to serve families of children with disabilities, ages

birth through 26, who have the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEIA.

For more information:
541 East Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32308-4949
(850) 847-0010
<http://fndfl.org/>

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System-FDLRS

The **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)** provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide. FDLRS supports the state education goals of high student achievement, safe schools, and high performing workforce. FDLRS activities reflect these goals and demonstrate outcomes toward accomplishing them. Funding is provided through federal and state dollars through the Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services (BEESS).

FDLRS includes 19 Associate Centers that serve from one to nine school districts. These Centers collaborate with districts, agencies, communities and other personnel and educational entities, providing education and support for teachers, parents, therapists, school administrators, and students with exceptionalities. Each Center includes specialists in the areas of Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development (HRD), and Technology.

In addition the BEESS provides regional and statewide technology support services and accessible instructional media support through Regional FDLRS Technology Specialists, Regional Assistive Technology Specialists, a statewide loan library, statewide technology services targeting assistive technology, instructional technology, and Universal Design for Learning, and a NIMAS Authorized User.

For more information:
310 Blount St., Suite 215
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2206
850-922-3731
<http://www.paec.org/fdlrsweb/>

The Florida Directory of Early Childhood Services

Statewide-computerized resource and referral system for your children and their families. It can provide information about a wide range of services available in your community. 1-800-654-4440 or <http://www.centraldirectory.org>

NICHCY State Contact Sheet

The offices listed on NICHCY state sheets are primarily state-level offices. Even if an office is not close to your home, they can usually put you in touch with resources in your community, as well as provide you with information and assistance about disability issues in your state. <http://www.nichcy.org/Pages/StateSpecificInfo.aspx>

Parent to Parent Miami

Our program is a community-wide, tax-exempt, non-profit organization that provides information, educational training and support to families who have children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs. The majority of the Board of Trustees and staff of Parent to Parent of Miami is comprised of specially trained parents, families and professionals who have a family member with a disability. Services are provided in English, Spanish, and Creole.

Thanks to the support provided by Parent to Parent of Miami, parents develop confidence and are better prepared to meet the needs of their children. A unique bonding occurs between parents and the Parent to Parent Education and Support Specialist, establishing an almost immediate rapport and providing a chance to share common feelings and experiences. <http://www.ptopmiami.org/>

Florida Inclusion Network

The mission of the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) is to provide learning opportunities, consultation, information and support to educators, parents, and community members resulting in the inclusion of all students. The FIN project is funded with Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), Part B discretionary dollars through the Florida Department of Education, [Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services](#). Our work is aligned with the [Florida Department of Education's Next Generation Strategic Plan](#) and [Florida's Part B State Performance Plan](#) (SPP).

FIN provides targeted [professional learning opportunities](#) and [technical assistance](#) that result in: systemic (district-wide and/or school-wide) changes to the way schools plan for, support, teach, and assess all students with disabilities, and building the capacity of districts and schools to sustain initiatives related to inclusion. Please see their website for office locations. <http://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com/>

Communication Disorders

Florida Association of Speech and Language Pathologists. (FLASHA)

The Mission of FLASHA is to serve the needs of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists in the State of Florida by providing support, opportunities for professional growth, and public awareness and advocacy of issues related to the highest quality care for the individuals they serve. See <http://www.flasha.org/> and <http://www.flasha.org/faq.html>.

Florida Telecommunications Relay

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) is a statewide non profit 501(c)3 organization that administers the Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program for citizens of Florida who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Speech Impaired. FTRI is also responsible for the education and promotion of the Florida Relay Service. The Florida Legislature passed the [Telecommunications Access System Act](#) (TASA [F.S. 427](#)) in 1991. The intent of TASA is to provide basic telecommunications services for Hard of Hearing, Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Speech Impaired individuals, in the most cost effective way possible. TASA mandates that the FTRI equipment distribution program and the Florida Relay Service be funded by a monthly surcharge billed to all telephone customers (landlines) in the State of Florida. The specialized telephone equipment and ring signaling devices provided through this program are loaned to all qualified permanent Florida residents for as long as they need it, at no charge. <http://www.ftri.org/index.cfm/go/public.view/page/6>

The Florida Association of the Deaf, Inc.

(FAD) is affiliated with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and seeks among other important things:

- * To promote and safeguard the educational system for self-preservation;
- * To promote awareness of communication difficulties, and methods;
- * To promote the use of communication devices;
- * To promote the use of protective signaling devices (smoke detectors, alarms, and others);
- * To serve as a watchdog of legislation or practices that may affect Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened individuals;
- * To support, with reason, all phases of various organizations and associations working with and for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened individuals; and
- * To support fully the affiliated clubs and Associations of the Deaf in Florida in their efforts to bring about greater civic and social interaction of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened community.

<http://www.fadcentral.org/index/index.html>

For more information:
Florida Association of the Deaf, Inc.
7852 Mansfield Hollow Rd.
Delray Beach, Florida 33446

Developmental Disabilities

The ARC of Florida

The Arc of Florida is a nonprofit charity whose mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities. The Arc of Florida works with

local, state and national partners and advocates for people with mental retardation, autism, spina bifida, cerebral palsy (CP), Prader-Willi syndrome and other developmental disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community.

We also work to reduce the incidence of and eliminate the consequences of developmental disabilities through education, awareness, research, advocacy and support of families, friends and the community. "Working with local, state, and national partners, The Arc of Florida advocates for local chapters, public policies, and high quality supports for people with developmental and other disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community."

Please see their website for locations: <http://arcflorida.org/news.php>

Florida Developmental Disabilities Counsel

The purpose of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered, consumer and family directed, comprehensive system of community services and individualized supports that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

The federal law that created the Council states that the purpose of the Council is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs authorized under this title.

The Council will accomplish its mission by supporting innovative initiatives that demonstrate new approaches to enhance the independence, productivity, inclusion and self-determination of individuals with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. <http://www.fddc.org/>

For more information:
124 Marriott Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2981
(800) 580-7801

Diabetes

Florida Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP)

The Diabetes Prevention & Control Program (DPCP) was created in July of 1997. The DPCP's Mission is to promote the highest standards available for the care, management and treatment of diabetes. Our goal is to reduce the burden of diabetes and the health-related complications of Floridians with diabetes by improving the access to, and quality of, diabetes care.

We work within the health system. We coordinate with County Health Departments, Health Maintenance Organizations, Managed Care Organizations, hospitals, and a wide array of medical providers.

We work for changes in the system. The DPCP works for changes in legislation, policy, protocols, and administrative procedures that improve the quality of, and access to, diabetes care within health systems. www.floridadiabetes.org

Please see their website for office locations:

<http://esetappsdo.h.doh.state.fl.us/contactussearch/DOHContacts.aspx>

Florida Diabetes Camp

Florida's first diabetes camp was organized in 1962 under the auspices of the [Florida Diabetes Association](#) (Camp Fladia). Over the next 8 years it grew from 40 to 85 campers per summer. Florida Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes (FCCYD) was incorporated in 1970. Forty years later, FCCYD serves over 400 youngsters ages 6-18 at its six summer sessions and another 700 youngsters and their families in weekend sessions throughout the year.

If you would like to receive more information about programs, please contact by [e-mail \(fccyd@floridadiabetescamp.org\)](mailto:fccyd@floridadiabetescamp.org). We must have the child's information and date of birth in order to send age appropriate camp brochures and information. <http://www.floridadiabetescamp.org/>

Epilepsy

Epilepsy Foundation of Florida

Epilepsy Foundation of Florida announces expanded statewide services for enhanced, streamlined care for Floridians with epilepsy and seizure disorders. The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF), designated as the lead agency by the Florida Department of Health to provide epilepsy services in the state, announced it will expand its services statewide to improve care for residents with epilepsy and seizure disorders. The plan is designed to serve more Floridians with epilepsy, especially children, with standardized, modernized and improved care, while at the same time operating more cost-efficiently. Please see their website for offices throughout the state: <http://www.epilepsyfla.org/>

Independent Living

Florida Independent Living Counsel

The Florida Independent Living Council is a statewide council established by federal mandate and Florida Statute. It consists of 15 voting members, who are appointed by the Governor. Other members include ex-officio representatives of the Division of Vocational Rehab and Blind Services. In compliance with state law, a majority of the voting members are persons with disabilities. Additional representatives are from Centers for Independent Living, advocacy groups, other consumer or independent living organizations and various state agencies that are impacted by Title VII of The Rehabilitation Act. The primary responsibility of the Council is to meet its various legal obligations that are covered in both the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Florida Statutes, Chapter 413, Part I.

<http://www.flailc.org/>

Please see their website for office locations.

For more information:

Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.

1416 N. Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32303

(850) 488-5624 voice/TTY

(877) 822-1993 toll free

(850) 488-5881 fax

mq@polaris.net

Learning Disabilities

LD Online

LD Online is the world's leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD, serving more than 200,000 parents, teachers, and other professionals each month. LD OnLine seeks to help children and adults reach their full potential by providing accurate and up-to-date information and advice about learning disabilities and ADHD. The site features hundreds of helpful articles, multimedia, monthly columns by noted experts, first person essays, children's writing and artwork, a comprehensive resource guide, very active forums, and a Yellow Pages referral directory of professionals, schools, and products.

More than 2.9 million school-age children in the United States – approximately five percent of the student population – are diagnosed with learning disabilities. Many more struggle in school but never receive a formal diagnosis. LD OnLine provides the parents and teachers of these children with accurate, authoritative information about learning disabilities so they can obtain the help they need.

<http://www.ldonline.org/>

Learning Disability Association of Florida

Chartered in 1964 by a group of concerned parents, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities was formed on behalf of children with learning

disabilities. Now known as the Learning Disabilities Association of America, the association has over 50,000 members and state chapters in all 50 states. The association serves parents, professionals, and adults with learning disabilities. Learning disabilities occur in many forms: visual, auditory, motor control, communication, logic, etc. Effective correction must include a total approach to the educational, physiological, psychological, and medical needs of the child.
<http://www.lda-fl.com/>

For more information:

LDA-FL

c/o Bridges Academy
894 Gary Hillery Drive
Winter Springs, FL 32708

Mental Health

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)

From its inception in 1979, NAMI has been dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. For three decades, NAMI has established itself as the most formidable grassroots mental health advocacy organization in the country. Dedication, steadfast commitment and unceasing belief in NAMI's mission by grassroots advocates have produced profound changes. NAMI's greatest strength is the dedication of our grassroots leaders and members. We are the families, friends and individuals that serve to strengthen communities across the country. Due in large part to generous individual, corporate, and foundation donations, NAMI is able to build on its success and continue to focus on three cornerstones of activity that offer hope, reform, and health to our American community: awareness, education, and advocacy. <http://www.nami.org/>

For more information:

NAMI Florida

316 E. Park Ave Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 671-4445, or toll-free (877) 626-4352
Fax: (850) 671-5272
Email: jevans9062@aol.com

Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute

The mission of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute is to improve the lives of people with mental, addictive, and developmental disorders through research, training, and education. <http://home.fmhi.usf.edu/>

For more information:

13301 Bruce B. Downs
Tampa, FL, 33612

813-974-6965
bakertrain@fmhi.usf.edu

Multi-Service Agencies

Abilities of Florida

The Abilities Foundation a 501©(3) nonprofit support organization that raises, invests, and distributes funds to the benefit of Abilities, Inc. of Florida, a 501©(3) nonprofit organization that is an Affiliate of the Service Source Network and serves the employment, housing, and health needs of persons with disabilities.
<http://www.abilitiesfoundation.com/>

For more information:

Frank De Lucia
President and CEO
Abilities Foundation
2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610
Telephone: 727-538-7370, Ext. 345
E-mail: fdelucia@abilities.org

Easter Seals

Easter Seals Florida has its headquarters in Orlando, Florida. In business since 1948, Easter Seals Florida has five regional offices providing developmental preschool and child care services. These regions are located in The Keys, West Palm Beach, Tampa, Orlando, and Ft. Myers.

Easter Seals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for more than 80 years. Whether helping someone improve physical mobility, return to work or simply gain greater independence for everyday living, Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.

<http://fl.easterseals.com/>

For more information:

Easter Seals of Florida
2010 Mizell Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32792
407-629-7881(voice)
407-629-7881(tty)
407-629-8422 (fax)

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association

Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) is the most common known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity in children. Although the cause is complex it results from an abnormality on the 15th chromosome. It occurs in males and females equally and in all races. PWSA (USA) is an organization of families and professionals working together to promote and fund research, provide education, and offer support to enhance the quality of life of those affected by Prader-Willi syndrome. <http://www.pwsausa.org/>

For more information:
(800) 926-4797 or
email national@pwsausa.org.

Transportation

Easter Seals Project Action

Mission is to promote universal access to transportation for people with disabilities under federal law and beyond by partnering with transportation providers, the disability community and others through the provision of training, technical assistance, applied research, outreach and communication. http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_homepage

For more information:
1425 K Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-3066
Toll-free: (800) 659-6428
Fax: (202) 737-7914 TDD: (202) 347-7385

Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

The State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) is an independent commission housed administratively within the Florida Department of Transportation. Our mission is to ensure the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation disadvantaged persons.

For more information:
605 Suwannee Street, MS-49
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450
Phone (850) 410-5700
Fax (850) 410-5752
TD Helpline -800-983-2435
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/CTD/>

VIII. OTHER PARENT RESOURCES

Children's Miracle Network

Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization that raises funds for more than 170 children's hospitals. Countless individuals, organizations and media partners unite with Children's Miracle Network hospitals to help sick and injured kids in local communities. Donations to Children's Miracle Network create miracles by funding medical care, research and education that saves and improves the lives of 17 million children each year. As of 2008, Children's Miracle Network has raised more than \$3.4 billion – most of which is donated a dollar or two at a time.

Children's Miracle Network
205 West 700 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
801.214.7400

www.Childrensmiraclenetwork.org

March of Dimes Florida Chapter

The mission of March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. We carry out this mission through research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies' lives.

March of Dimes - Florida Chapter
341 N. Maitland Avenue, Suite 115
Maitland, FL 32751
407-599-5077

www.marchofdimes.com/florida

Florida Make A Wish Foundation

Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation[®] has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. The Foundation's mission reflects the life-changing impact that a Make-A-Wish[®] experience has on children, families, referral sources, donors, sponsors and entire communities.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was founded in 1980 after a little boy named Chris Greicius realized his heartfelt wish to become a police officer. Since its humble beginnings, the organization has blossomed into a worldwide phenomenon, reaching

more than 193,000 children around the world. Although it has become one of the world's most well-known charities, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has maintained the grassroots fulfillment of its mission.

A network of nearly 25,000 volunteers enable the Make-A-Wish Foundation to serve children with life-threatening medical conditions. Volunteers serve as wish granters, fundraisers, special events assistants and in numerous other capacities.

As the Foundation continues to mature, its mission will remain steadfast. Wish children of the past, present and future will have an opportunity to **share the power of a wish**®.

Web site: www.wish.org

For local chapters: <http://www.wish.org/chapterlocate/results?state=fl>

Florida Shrine Association

One of the main purposes of this organization is to coordinate and encourage joint cooperation between Shrine temples of Florida in fund raising projects for the benefit of the Shriner Hospitals for Children. Their international health care system consist of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care at Shriners Hospitals for Children® and receive all services at no financial obligation to families.

For the Florida website with links to local chapters, see: <http://www.fla-shrine.org/>

International website: <http://www.shrinershq.org/ShrinersHQ/>

Florida WIC Program

WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC provides the following at no cost: healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for health care.

To find your local WIC Office:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wic/pages/program_info/contact.htm

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 405,000 Florida students attend a postsecondary institution. The program offers three levels of scholarship awards – the Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), the Florida Medallion

Scholars award (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV). Read this brochure to find out how to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

To apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you **must** submit a completed (error free) **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application** during your last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). **You must apply during your last year in high school, before graduation,* or you will forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.** To apply online, visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org, select “State Grants, Scholarships & Applications” and click on “Apply Here.” The application gives the Florida Department of Education permission to evaluate your high school transcript and test scores for eligibility for state scholarships and grants, including a Bright Futures Scholarship. You may apply prior to meeting all requirements.

Note: The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is NOT a requirement for Bright Futures qualification but you are encouraged to apply as it may help you find other available financial aid.

For more information, go to:

https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bf_brochure.pdf

Florida High School/High Tech

Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) is designed to provide high school students with all types of disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology- related careers. HS/HT links youth to a broad range of academic, career development and experiential resources and experiences that will enable them to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce.

HS/HT is a community-based partnership made up of students, parents and caregivers, businesses, educators and rehabilitation professionals. It has been shown to reduce the high school dropout rate and increase the overall self-esteem of participating students. If you are interested in participating, there is a role for you. Take a look around, and see where you fit into the HS/HT community.

HS/HT is an initiative of the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy. In Florida, it is a program of The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities.

Florida High School/High Tech Headquarters

The Able Trust

3320 Thomasville Road

Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32308

888-838-ABLE (2253) Toll-Free

850-224-4493 V/TDD

850-224-4496 Fax
www.abletrust.org

America's Promise Alliance

Founded in 1997 with General Colin Powell as Chairman and chaired today by Alma Powell, America's Promise Alliance is a cross-sector partnership of more than 300 corporations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and advocacy groups that are passionate about improving lives and changing outcomes for children. We have made a top priority of ensuring that all young people graduate from high school ready for college, work and life. Our work involves raising awareness, encouraging action and engaging in advocacy to provide children the key supports we call the Five Promises: Caring adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, An Effective Education and Opportunities to Help Others.

For more information, go to: <http://www.americaspromise.org/>

Family Service Centers, Inc. / Suncoast Center, Inc.

The FSC Board of Directors approved a full merger into Suncoast Center, Inc., a community mental health provider headquartered in St. Petersburg, effective November 30, 2009. The union of the two long-time collaborators in local child and family services results in a combined unit well-positioned to offer deeper levels of services to an even broader spectrum of residents. Suncoast's 60 years of experience in mental and behavioral health complements FSC's expertise in such areas as individual and family counseling, education and self-sufficiency initiatives, in-home support services, and operation of Pinellas County's only certified rape crisis treatment center.

- Childnet/Healthy Families
- Family Counseling
- Sexual Assault Services
- Ways to Work/Partners of Self-Sufficiency
- Youth Intervention Services
-

For more information about Suncoast Center programs and services, please call our main intake line at **727-327-7656**.

or write:

Suncoast Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 10970
St. Petersburg, FL 33733
Website: www.suncoastcenter.org

Florida Children's Services Council

The Florida Children's Services Council (FCSC) is a non-profit organization comprised of children's services councils (CSC) established in counties throughout the state. CSCs provide funding for primary prevention and early intervention programs that promote positive family functioning. Through collaborative efforts with agencies, officials and service providers, CSCs work to improve young lives by making strategic investments in the well-being of Florida's children. Through their collaborative efforts with agencies, officials and service providers, CSCs work to improve young lives by making strategic investments in the well-being of Florida's children and their families. CSCs are recognized for providing innovative leadership and vision to community, state and national initiatives. Learn more about the individual CSCs, and the value they bring to their communities here.

For more information, go to: http://www.floridacsc.org/about_fcsc/members.php

Children's Legal Services - Florida Department of Children and Families

Children's Legal Services and Florida's Children First have coordinated efforts to assist children subject to Chapter 39 proceedings who need or can benefit from representation by legal counsel in specialized areas of the law outside the ordinary realm of Dependency Court. If a child has a legal issue unrelated to dependency, make sure you get a lawyer appointed for the child.

For more information, go to: www.dcf.state.fl.us/admin/cls/refGuides.shtml

Florida Department of Revenue - Child Support Enforcement

Every child has the right to financial and medical support from both parents. Our goal is to assure families receive the child support they need and deserve. The services we provide include locating parents, establishing paternity, and establishing, enforcing and modifying support orders. Our services are available if a parent lives in another state or country. We do not establish or enforce visitation or custody.

For more information, go to: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/>

Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

A Guardian ad Litem is a volunteer appointed by the court to protect the rights and advocate the best interests of a child involved in a court proceeding. The volunteer Guardian ad Litem makes independent recommendations to the court by focusing on

the needs of each child. The Guardian ad Litem advocates for the best interests of the child they represent.

A Volunteer Guardian ad Litem is an individual who is appointed by the court to advocate for children who come into the court system primarily as a result of alleged abuse or neglect. The Guardian ad Litem Program is able to represent thousands of children with the help of volunteers. Program volunteers donate countless hours to the children they represent. The unique perspective of volunteers, and their often creative solutions, are highly valued by dependency court judges.

For more information, go to: <http://www.guardianadlitem.org>

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Florida

Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida is a community of caring individuals committed to assuring a bright future for all, by befriending young people who need positive role models. Not every child has someone to look up to, emulate, trust and love. Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida members enable volunteers to make Big Magic out of Little Moments. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBSAF), a 501c(3) not-for-profit, was organized in February of 1995 to pool the resources and coordinate the efforts of our member agencies. The organization's purpose is to increase resources and create opportunities to enhance service growth for the sixteen BBBSAF affiliate members.

In 2008, BBBSAF members delivered mentoring services in over 300 Florida cities and over 320 schools, and provided volunteer mentoring to 16,880 children. The combined annual budgets of the Association's member agencies total over \$19,000,000. Revenues are generated through corporate and individual giving, state and Federal grants, private foundation grants, United Way contributions, and fund raising activities.

To Contact us (toll-free), please call 1-877-283-5055

Website: <http://bbbsflorida.org>

Florida Boys and Girls Clubs

In every community, boys and girls are left to find their own recreation and companionship in the streets. An increasing number of children are at home with no adult care or supervision. Young people need to know that someone cares about them. Boys & Girls Clubs offer that and more. Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

Boys & Girls Clubs are a safe place to learn and grow – all while having fun. They are truly The Positive Place For Kids.

For more information go to: <http://bgca.org/whoweare/>

To find a local club in your area, go to: <http://bgca.org/clubs>

This resource guide is not a substitute for legal advice

June 30, 2010

Authored by FFAST staff in collaboration with paralegal subcontractees

Legal review by Gordon B. Scott, Esq.

ATTACHMENT # 1

DEFINITIONS OF 13 DISABILITY CATEGORIES UNDER IDEA

(c) **Definitions of disability terms.** The terms used in this definition are defined as follows:

(1) (i) **Autism** means a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance, as defined in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(ii) A child who manifests the characteristics of "autism" after age 3 could be diagnosed as having "autism" if the criteria in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section are satisfied.

(2) **Deaf-blindness** means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

(3) **Deafness** means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

(4) **Emotional disturbance** is defined as follows:

(i) The term means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:

(A) An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.

(B) An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers.

(C) Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.

(D) A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression.

(E) A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

(ii) The term includes schizophrenia. The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have an emotional disturbance.

(5) **Hearing impairment** means an impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance but that is not included under the definition of deafness in this section.

(6) **Mental retardation** means significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

(7) **Multiple disabilities** means concomitant impairments (such as mental retardation-blindness, mental retardation-orthopedic impairment, etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

(8) **Orthopedic impairment** means a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member, etc.), impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, etc.), and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

(9) **Other health impairment** means having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that-

(i) Is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia; and

(ii) Adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Added Torrette's Syndrome to OHI category.

(10) **Specific learning disability** is defined as follows:

(i) **General.** The term means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

(ii) **Disorders not included.** The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

(11) **Speech or language impairment** means a communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

(12) **Traumatic brain injury** means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

(13) **Visual impairment including blindness** means an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness.

(Authority: [20 U.S.C. 1401\(3\)\(A\) and \(B\); 1401\(26\)](#))

Attachment #2

What Should be in an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)?

Within 45 calendar days of the date the Local Early Steps receives the referral for determination of Part C eligibility, the evaluation and/or assessment must be completed and the IFSP team members must be convened by the service coordinator in a face-to-face meeting to develop the initial IFSP for each eligible child and family. [34 CFR §303.342\(a\)](#); [34 CFR §303.321\(e\)\(2\)\(i\)\(ii\)](#)
[34 CFR §303.345\(a\)](#).

The initial IFSP meeting includes the following persons:

The parent(s);

Other family members, advocate(s), or person(s) outside the family, *as requested by the parent(s)*;

The service coordinator;

A person(s) directly involved in conducting the evaluation and/or assessment;

Person(s) who are or will be providing services to the child or family, *as appropriate*.

[34 CFR §303.343\(a\)\(1\)\(i\) thru \(vi\)](#); [34 CFR §303.343\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)\(ii\)\(iii\)](#)

The IFSP must contain a statement of the infant's or toddler's present levels of physical development (including vision, hearing, and health status), cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, and adaptive skills development, based on objective criteria. [34 CFR §303.344\(a\)\(1\)](#)

The IFSP must contain a statement of the family's concerns, priorities, and resources related to enhancing the development of the child with a disability. [34 CFR §303.344\(c\)\(1\)\(2\)](#)

The IFSP early intervention services must be based on peer-reviewed research, to the extent practical, necessary to meet the unique needs of the infant or toddler and the family, including the following:

- A. Frequency, intensity and method of delivering services;
- B. Location of the services;
- C. Funding source or payment arrangements, if any;
- D. Projected dates for initiation of services;

The anticipated duration of these services.

[34 CFR §303.344\(d\)\(1\)\(i\)\(iii\)\(iv\)](#)

[34 CFR §303.344\(f\)\(1\)\(2\)](#)

The IFSP must contain a statement of the natural environment(s) in which each early intervention services will be provided and justification of the extent, if any, to which each service will not be provided in a natural environment.

[34 CFR §303.344\(d\)\(ii\)](#); [34 CFR §303.12\(b\)](#)

The IFSP must include, to the extent appropriate, any medical, health and other services that the child needs, or family needs related to enhancing the development of the child, but that are not required under [IDEA, Part C. 34 CFR §303.344\(e\)\(1\)\(i\)\(ii\)](#)

The IFSP must contain the identification of the service coordinator who will be responsible for the implementation of the IFSP and coordination with other agencies and persons, including transition services. [34 CFR §303.344\(g\)\(1\)](#)

The IFSP must contain steps to be taken to support the transition of the toddler with a disability to preschool or other services, when appropriate. [34 CFR §303.344\(h\)\(1\)\(2\)](#)

The IFSP must be fully explained to the parents and informed written consent of the parents must be obtained prior to the provision of early intervention services described on the IFSP. If the parents do not provide consent with respect to a particular early intervention service, then only the services to which consent is obtained will be provided. [34 CFR §303.342\(e\)](#); [34 CFR §303.404\(2\)](#)

The IFSP must be reviewed at least every six months from the date of the initial or annual evaluation of the IFSP, or more frequently if conditions warrant, or if the family requests such a review. [34 CFR §303.342\(b\)\(1\)](#)

The periodic review must address:

The degree to which progress toward achieving the outcomes is being made.

Whether or not modification or revision of the outcomes or services is necessary.

Whether or not additional needs have been identified based on ongoing assessment/observation. [34 CFR §303.342\(b\)\(1\)\(i\)\(ii\)](#)

The periodic review may be carried out by a meeting or another means that is acceptable to the parents and other participants on the IFSP team. The concurrence of the family must be documented. [34 CFR §303.342\(b\)\(2\)](#)

The periodic review of the IFSP must include the following persons:

- A. The parent(s);
- B. Other family members, advocate(s), or person(s) outside the family, as *requested by the parent(s)*;
- C. The service coordinator;

If conditions warrant, provisions must be made for the participation of

- D. Persons directly involved in conducting the evaluation and/or assessment;
- Persons who are or will be providing services to the child or family. [34 CFR §303.343\(b\)](#)

A face-to face meeting must be conducted on at least an annual basis by the IFSP team to evaluate the IFSP, as appropriate, to revise, change or modify its provisions and assess the continued appropriateness of the outcomes, strategies and recommended services, as needed. [34 CFR §303.342\(c\)](#)

The annual meeting to evaluate the IFSP is due no later than one year from the date the initial IFSP was written or no later than one year after the date of the last annual IFSP meeting.

[34 CFR §303.342\(c\)](#)

The results of the most current evaluations conducted and other information available from on-going assessments of the child and family must be considered at the annual evaluation of the IFSP to determine what services are needed and will be provided.

[34 CFR §303.342\(c\)](#)

The annual evaluation of the IFSP includes the following persons:

The parent(s);

Other family members, advocate(s), or person(s) outside the family, *as requested by the parent(s)*;

The service coordinator;

A person(s) directly involved in conducting the most current evaluation and/or assessment;

Person(s) who are or will be providing services to the child or family, *as appropriate*.

[34 CFR §303.343\(a\)\(1\)\(i\) thru \(vi\)](#)

A person(s) directly involved in conducting the most current evaluation and/or assessment who is unable to attend the annual evaluation of the IFSP must be involved through other means, e.g., telephone conference call, a designated knowledgeable representative, videoconferencing or making available pertinent records.

[34 CFR §303.343\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)\(ii\)\(iii\)](#)

ATTACHMENT #3

Children's Medical Services Offices throughout Florida

Pensacola Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Pensacola

[Map / Directions](#)

5192 Bayou Boulevard

Pensacola, FL 32504

(850) 484-5040

1-800-381-3685

Counties: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton

Local Early Steps Offices

Sacred Heart Hospital / Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

5150 Bayou Blvd., Suite 1-N

Pensacola, FL 32503

(850) 416-7656

Fax: (850) 416-7348

Counties: Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton

Child Protection Team Offices

Gulf Coast Kids House

[Map / Directions](#)

3401 North 12th Avenue

Pensacola, FL 32503

(850) 595-5801

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

3410 North 12th Avenue
Pensacola, FL 32503
(850) 595-5815
FAX: (850) 595-5819

Panama City Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Panama City

[Map / Directions](#)

230 N. Tyndall Parkway
Panama City, FL 32404
(850) 872-4700
1-800-299-4700
Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington

Local Early Steps Offices

Children's Home Society

[Map / Directions](#)

700 West 23rd Street, Suite 100
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 747-5411
Fax: (850) 747-5583
Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla

Child Protection Team Offices

Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center

[Map / Directions](#)

700 West 23rd Street, Building E, Suite 40
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 872-4726

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Life Management Center of Northwest Florida, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

525 East 15th Street
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 522 4485
FAX: (850) 872-4828

Tallahassee Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Tallahassee

[Map / Directions](#)

2390 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 487-2604
1-800-226-2604

Counties: Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla

Local Early Steps Offices

Children's Home Society / Big Bend Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

1801 Miccosukee Commons Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 921-0330
Fax: (850) 921-0283

Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, & Wakulla

Child Protection Team Offices

Children's Home Society

[Map / Directions](#)

1801 Miccosukee Commons Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 487-2838

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Children's Home Society of Florida, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

1801 Miccosukee Commons Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 921-8989
FAX: (850) 921-8997

Gainesville Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Gainesville

[Map / Directions](#)

1701 S.W. 16th Avenue, Bldg. B
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 334-1400
1-800-523-7545

Counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, Union

Local Early Steps Offices

Department of Pediatrics

[Map / Directions](#)

1600 S.W. Archer Road, Rm. HD 119
Gainesville, FL 32610-0296
(352) 334-1480, SC 625-1480
Fax: (352) 392-7829, SC 625-1359

Counties: Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnum, Suwannee, Union

Child Protection Team Offices

University of Florida Dept. of Pediatrics

[Map / Directions](#)

1701 SW 16th Avenue, Bldg. A
Gainesville, FL 32608-1173
(352) 334-1300

Jacksonville Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Jacksonville

[Map / Directions](#)

910 North Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209-6810
(904) 360-7070
1-800-340-8354
Counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns

Local Early Steps Offices

University of Florida / Northeastern Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

910 North Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 360-7022 ext. 272
SC: 826-7022
Fax: (904) 798-4545 or 4544
Counties: Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns

Child Protection Team Offices

First Coast Child Protection Team

[Map / Directions](#)

4539 Beach Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 633-0300

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Children's Crisis Center, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

655 West 11th Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(904) 244-4670
Fax: (904) 244-4627

Ocala Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Ocala

[Map / Directions](#)

3200 E. Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 369-2100
1-888-326-7485
Counties: Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter

[Map / Directions](#)

1515 E. Silver Springs Blvd., STE 215
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 369-2100
1-888-326-7485
Counties: Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter

Child Protection Team Offices

University of Florida Dept. of Pediatrics

[Map / Directions](#)

2131 SW 22nd Place
Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 873-6571

Daytona Beach Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Daytona

[Map / Directions](#)

421 South Keech Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-4623
(866) 827-5197
Fax: (386) 254-3937
Counties: Flagler, Volusia

Local Early Steps Offices

The Children's Advocacy Center

[Map / Directions](#)

421 South Keech Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-4623
(386) 258-7434
Fax: (386) 258-2283
Counties: Flagler, Lake, Volusia

Child Protection Team Offices

The Children's Advocacy Center

[Map / Directions](#)

1011 West International Speedway Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 238-3830
Fax: (386) 239-6918

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

The Children's Advocacy Center

[Map / Directions](#)

1011 West International Speedway Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 238-3830
Fax: (386) 239-6918

Tampa Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Tampa

[Map / Directions](#)

13101 N. Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 396-9743
Fax: (813) 396-9795
Counties: Hillsborough

CMS - St. Petersburg

[Map / Directions](#)

3251 3rd Avenue, North, Suite 130
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 893-2775
(800) 336-1612
Fax: (727) 893-2484
Counties: Pasco, Pinellas

CMS - Lakeland

[Map / Directions](#)

200 N Kentucky Avenue, Suite 114
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 413-3580
Fax: (863) 413-3597
Counties: Hardee, Highlands, Polk

Local Early Steps Offices

All Children's Hospital Center for Child Development

[Map / Directions](#)

500 7th Ave South, Dept 7470
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 767-4403
1-800-374-4334
Fax: (727) 727-6727 or 4715

University of South Florida

[Map / Directions](#)

13101 North Bruce B. Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 974-0601
Fax: (813) 558-1343

Infants & Young Children West Central Florida, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

P.O. BOX 82485
3825 W. Henderson Blvd., Suite 504
Tampa, FL 33629
(813) 356-1632 ext 26
Fax: (813) 356-1636

Lakeland Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

4718 Old Highway 37, Suite 1002
Lakeland, FL 33813
(863) 701-1240
Counties: Hillsborough, Polk

Child Protection Team Offices

Tampa General Healthcare

[Map / Directions](#)

13101 N. Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
2nd floor, MDC105
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 250-2510
Fax: (813) 396-9591

Orlando Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Orlando

[Map / Directions](#)

7000 Lake Ellenor Dr.
Orlando, FL 32809
(407) 858-5555
1-800-226-6530
Counties: Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Local Early Steps Offices

Central Florida Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

601 West Michigan St.
Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 317-7430 Ext. 2121
Fax: (407) 648-4150
Counties: Orange, Osceola, Seminole

Child Protection Team Offices

The Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families

[Map / Directions](#)

601 West Michigan St.
Orlando, FL 32805
(407) 317-7430

Melbourne Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Viera

[Map / Directions](#)

2565 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940
(321) 639-5888
Counties: Brevard

Local Early Steps Offices

Catch of Brevard, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

1024 South Florida Ave., Suite A
Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 634-3688
Fax: (321) 504-0955
Counties: Brevard

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Florida Institute of Technology

[Map / Directions](#)

150 West University Boulevard
Melbourne, FL 32901-6988
(321) 674-8106
Fax: (321) 674-7105

Sarasota Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Sarasota

[Map / Directions](#)

6055 Rand Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34238-5189
(941) 361-6250
1-800-235-9717
Counties: Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, Sarasota

Local Early Steps Offices

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System

[Map / Directions](#)

1700 South Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34239-3555
941-487-5403
(866) 510-5594
Fax: 941-487-5430
Counties: Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee, Sarasota

Child Protection Team Offices

Child Protection Center, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

1750 17th Street, Bldg. L
Sarasota, FL 34234
(941) 365-1277

Sexual Abuse & Treatment Offices

Child Protection Center, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

1750 17th Street, Bldg. L
Sarasota, FL 34234
(941) 365-1277

Ft. Lauderdale Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Ft. Lauderdale

[Map / Directions](#)

Broward General Medical Center
1625 SE 3rd Avenue, Suite 415
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
1-800-204-2182
Fax: (954) 713-3179
Counties: Broward

CMS - West Palm Beach

[Map / Directions](#)

5101 Greenwood Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 881-5040
1-877-822-5203
Counties: Palm Beach

Local Early Steps Offices

Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center

[Map / Directions](#)

1401 South Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
(954) 728-1083 or (954) 728-1090
Fax: (954)779-2316

Treasure Coast Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

5325 Greenwood Ave, Suite 201
West palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 881-2822
Fax: (561) 881-0972
Counties: Palm Beach

Child Protection Team Offices

The Child Protection Team of Palm Beach, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

2840 6th Avenue South
Lake Worth, FL 33461
(561) 433-3544

Ft. Pierce Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Ft. Pierce

[Map / Directions](#)

1701 S. 23rd Street
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950-4804
(772) 467-6000
1-800-226-1354
Counties: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie

Local Early Steps Offices

Treasure Coast Campus

[Map / Directions](#)

10570 S Federal Highway, Suite 200
Port St Lucie, FL 34952
(772) 380-9972 ext. 64422
Fax: (772) 380-9976
Counties: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie

Naples Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Naples

[Map / Directions](#)

1665 Medical Boulevard
Naples, FL 34110
(239) 513-7400
Counties: Collier

Child Protection Team Offices

Collier County Child Advocacy Council, Inc.

[Map / Directions](#)

1036 6th Avenue North
Naples, FL 34102
(239) 263-8383

Miami Regional Offices

CMS Area Offices

CMS - Miami North

[Map / Directions](#)

155 South Miami Avenue, STE 1000
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 349-1330
1-866-831-9017
Counties: North Dade

CMS - Miami South

[Map / Directions](#)

17615 S. W. 97th Avenue, Bldg. 1
Miami, FL 33157
(786) 624-5700
Counties: South Dade

CMS - Marathon

[Map / Directions](#)

10015 Overseas Highway
100th Street Center
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 289-2779
1-800-342-1898
Counties: Monroe

Local Early Steps Offices

Mailman Center for Child Development

[Map / Directions](#)

1120 NW 14th Street, Rm 1212
Miami, FL 33136
(305) 243-6660
Fax: (305) 243-3501

Miami Children's Hospital

[Map / Directions](#)

17615 S.W. 97th Ave.
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
(786) 268-2611
Fax: (786) 268-1748
Counties: South Dade, Monroe

Miami Local Early Steps

[Map / Directions](#)

1120 NW 14th Street, Rm 1216
Miami, FL 33136
(305) 243-5808
Fax: (305) 243-3501
Counties: Broward

Easter Seals Florida Keys Region

[Map / Directions](#)

5220 College Rd.
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 294-1089 ext. 14
Fax: (305) 296-1530

Counties: Dade

Child Protection Team Offices

University of Miami - North

[Map / Directions](#)

1150 N.W. 14th St., Suite 212
Miami, FL 33136
(305) 243-7550

University of Miami - South

[Map / Directions](#)

15321 South Dixie Highway, Suite 201
Miami, FL 33157
(305) 255-5584

Attachment #4

Important Points to Consider in Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

1. The [Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act \(OBRA\) 89](#) amended §§1902(a)(43) and 1905(a)(4)(B) and created §1905(r) of the Social Security Act which sets forth the basic requirements for the Medicaid program. Under the Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, the Medicaid state must provide for screening, vision, hearing and dental services at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical and dental practice established after consultation with recognized medical and dental organizations involved in child health care and must also provide for medically necessary screening, vision, hearing and dental services regardless of whether such services coincide with established periodicity schedules for these services. Additionally, the Act requires that any service which you are permitted to cover under Medicaid that is necessary to treat or ameliorate a defect, physical and mental illness, or a condition identified by a screen, must be provided to EPSDT participants regardless of whether the service or item is otherwise included in Florida's Medicaid state plan.

Services under EPSDT must be sufficient in amount, duration, or scope to reasonably achieve their purpose. The amount duration, or scope of EPSDT services to recipients may not be denied **arbitrarily** or reduced solely because of the diagnosis, type of illness, or condition.

2. Services covered by a state Medicaid plan must be sufficient in amount, duration, and scope to reasonably achieve its purpose. [42 C.F.R. §440.230\(b\)](#).

3. A state Medicaid agency may not **arbitrarily** deny or reduce the amount, duration or scope of a required service to an otherwise eligible recipient solely because of the diagnosis, type of illness or conditions. [42 C.F.R. §440.230\(c\)](#).

4. Federal statutes and regulations providing for medically necessary treatment are to be **liberally** construed in favor of the intended beneficiaries of the Medicaid program. [Aitchison v. Berger](#), 404 F.Supp. 1137, 1149 (S.D. N.Y. 1975)

5. The determination of whether treatment is medically necessary, for purposes of Medicaid, is a professional judgment which must be decided and certified by the treating physician. [Rush v. Parham](#), 440 F.Supp. 383, 389 (D.Ga. 1977)

6. A state **may not eliminate funding** for medical services certified by a qualified physician as being medically necessary. [Visser v. Taylor](#), 756 F. Supp. 501, September 10, 1990

Attachment #5

LEGAL AID OFFICES BY COUNTY

Alachua

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 372-0519, <http://www.trls.org/>

Baker (see Alachua or Duval Counties)

Bay

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Panama City, (850) 769-3581,
<http://www.lsnf.org/>

Bradford (see Alachua County)

Brevard

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Tampa, (813) 232-1343, <http://www.bals.org/>

Brevard County Legal Aid, Inc. - Rockledge, (321) 631-2500,
<http://www.brevardcountylegalaid.org/>

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Fort Pierce, (772) 489-4660,
<http://www.fiacfla.org/>

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Broward

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc. - Plantation, (954) 736-2400,
<http://www.legalaid.org/>

FIU College of Law Educational Advocacy Clinic – Miami, (305) 348-7541,
<http://www.fiu.edu/>

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Miami Office - Miami, (305) 573-1106,
<http://www.fiacfla.org/>

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc. - Plantation, (954) 765-8950

Calhoun

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Quincy, (850) 875-9881, <http://www.lsnf.org/>

Charlotte

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, <http://www.frls.org/>

Florida Rural Legal Services - Punta Gorda, (941) 505-9007, <http://www.frls.org/>

Citrus

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Inverness, (352) 726-8512,
<http://www.clsmf.org/>

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Clay

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. - Green Cove Springs, (904) 284-8410,
<http://www.jaxlegalaid.org/v2/>

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 356-8371,
<http://www.jaxlegalaid.org/v2/>

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 394-7450, www.trls.org

Collier

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494, fls@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - Immokalee, (239) 657-3681, www.frls.org

Legal Aid Society of Collier County, Inc. - Immokalee, (239) 657-7442

Legal Aid Society of Collier County, Inc. - Naples, (239) 775-4555

Columbia

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494, fls@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Lake City, (386) 752-5960, www.trls.org

DeSoto

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494, fls@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - Lakeland, (863) 688-7376, www.frls.org

Dixie (see Columbia County)

Duval

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494, fls@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 356-8371, www.jaxlegalaid.org

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 394-7450, www.trls.org

Escambia

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Pensacola, (850) 432-8222, www.lsnf.org

Northwest Florida Legal Services, Inc. - Pensacola, (850) 432-2336, www.nwfls.org

Flagler

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Bunnell, (386) 437-8485,
www.clsmf.org

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Daytona Beach, (386) 255-6573,
www.clsmf.org

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Palatka, (386) 328-8361,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Franklin

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Tallahassee, (850) 385-9007, www.lsnf.org

Gadsden

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Quincy, (850) 875-9881, www.lsnf.org

Gilchrist (see Alachua County)

Glades

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - Immokalee, (239) 657-3681, www.frls.org

Gulf (see Bay County)

Hamilton (see Columbia County)

Hardee

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Lakeland, (863) 688-7376, www.frls.org

Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Inc. - Bartow, (863) 519-5663

Hendry

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Belle Glade, (561) 993-0003, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - Immokalee, (239) 657-3681, www.frls.org

Hernando

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Brooksville, (352) 796-7238,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Highlands

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Lakeland, (863) 688-7376, www.frls.org

Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Inc. - Sebring, (863) 519-5663

Hillsborough

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Tampa, (813) 864-2280, www.bals.org

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Plant City, (813) 752-1335, www.bals.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Holmes (see Bay County)

Indian River

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Fort Pierce, (772) 489-4660, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Pierce, (772) 466-4766, www.frls.org

Jackson (see Gadsden County)

Jefferson

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Tallahassee, (850) 385-9007, www.lsnf.org

Lafayette (see Columbia County)

Lake

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Tavares, (352) 343-0815,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Lee

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Myers, (239) 334-4554, www.frls.org

Lee County Legal Aid Society, Inc. - Fort Myers, (239) 334-6118

Leon

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association, Inc. - Tallahassee, (850)
222-3004

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Tallahassee, (850) 385-9007, www.lsnf.org

Levy (see Alachua County)

Liberty (see Gadsden County)

Madison (see Columbia County)

Manatee

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. - Bradenton, (941) 746-6151, www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Legal Aid of Manasota, Inc. - Bradenton, (941) 747-1628

Marion

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Ocala, (352) 629-0105,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida - Ocala, (352) 629-0105

Martin

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Fort Pierce, (772) 489-4660, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Pierce, (772) 466-4766, www.frls.org

Miami Dade

FIU College of Law Educational Advocacy Clinic - Miami, (305) 348-7541,
www.fiu.edu

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Miami, (305) 573-1106, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Guardianship Program for Dade County, Inc. - Miami, (305) 592-7642,
www.guardianshipprogram.org

Legal Aid Society of Dade County Bar Association - Miami, (305) 579-5733,
www.DadeCountyBar.org

Legal Aid Society of Dade County Bar Association - Florida City, (305) 247-3353,
www.DadeCountyBar.org

Legal Aid Society of Dade County Bar Association - Homestead, (305) 247-9562,
www.Dadecountybar.org

Legal Aid Society of Dade County Bar Association - Miami Beach, (305) 673-7426,
www.Dadecountybar.org

Legal Aid Society of Dade County Bar Association - Miami, (305) 349-6013,
www.DadeCountyBar.org

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. - Miami, (305) 232-9680, www.lsgmi.org

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. - Florida City, (305) 576-0080, www.lsgmi.org

Monroe

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Miami, (305) 573-1106, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. - Key West, (305) 292-3566, www.lsgmi.org

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. - Miami, (305) 576-0080, www.lsgmi.org

Nassau

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. – Jacksonville, (904) 356-8371,
www.jaxlegalaid.org

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 394-7450, www.trls.org

Okaloosa

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Fort Walton Beach, (850) 862-3279,
www.lsnf.org

Okeechobee

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Fort Pierce, (772) 489-4660, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Pierce, (772) 466-4766, www.frls.org

Orange

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Orlando, (407) 841-7777,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc. - Orlando, (407) 841-
8310, www.legalaidocba.org

Osceola

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Kissimmee, (407) 847-0053,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Palm Beach

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Belle Glade, (561) 993-0003, www.frls.org

Florida Rural Legal Services - West Palm Beach, (561) 820-8902, www.frls.org

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. - West Palm Beach, (561) 655-8944,
www.legalaidpbc.org

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. - Belle Glade, (561) 993-3836,
www.legalaidpbc.org

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. - West Palm Beach, (561) 833-5787,
www.legalaidpbc.org

Pasco

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Dade City, (352) 567-9044, www.bals.org

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - New Port Richey, (727) 847-5494, www.bals.org

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Tampa, (813) 232-1343, www.bals.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Pinellas

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - St. Petersburg, (727) 490-4040, www.bals.org

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. - Tampa, (813) 232-1343, www.bals.org

Community Law Program - St. Petersburg, (727) 582-7402, www.lawprogram.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. - Clearwater, (727) 443-0657, www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. - St. Petersburg, (727) 821-0726,
www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Polk

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Lakeland, (863) 688-7376, www.frls.org

Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Inc. - Bartow, (863) 519-5663

Putnam (see Flagler County)

Saint Johns

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Daytona Beach, (386) 255-6573,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 356-8371, www.jaxlegalaid.org

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. - St. Augustine, (904) 827-9921,
www.jaxlegalaid.org

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Jacksonville, (904) 394-7450, www.trls.org

Saint Lucie

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center - Fort Pierce, (772) 489-4660, www.fiacfla.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, (305) 358-2081

Florida Rural Legal Services - Fort Pierce, (772) 466-4766, www.frls.org

Santa Rosa

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Pensacola, (850) 432-8222, www.lsnf.org

Northwest Florida Legal Services, Inc. - Milton, (850) 432-2336, www.nwfls.org

Sarasota

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. - Sarasota, (941) 366-1746, www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Legal Aid of Manasota, Inc. - Sarasota, (941) 366-0038

Legal Aid of Manasota, Inc. - Venice, (941) 492-4631

Seminole

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Sanford, 407-322-8983,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Inc. - Longwood, 407.834.1660,
www.scbalas.org

Sumter (see Citrus County)

Suwanee (see Columbia County)

Taylor (see Columbia County)

Union (see Alachua County)

Volusia

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. - Daytona Beach, (386) 255-6573,
www.clsmf.org

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Wakulla

Florida Institutional Legal Services, Inc. - Gainesville, (352) 375-2494,
fils@bellsouth.net

Florida Justice Institute - Miami, 305-358-2081

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. - Tallahassee, (850) 385-9007, www.lsnf.org

Walton (see Okaloosa County)

Washington (see Bay County)