Information & Resources for Brevard County

Go to Recreation, Social Services, or Support Groups, for Brevard

Local Advocacy & Resource Organizations

IEP information and supports in Brevard:

The Family Liaison Project - 722-4150
Terry Tomaka X5119, Jim Gerhauser X5821 and Emily DeWoody X5819

Space Coast Early Intervention Center – 321-729-6858

Brevard PALS – Providing autism links & Supports
http://www.pals-ucfcard.org/BREVARD_PALS.html

Brevard Autism Website: http://www.brevardautism.com/
Welcome to BrevardAutism.com, your most comprehensive source of services available for children with autism in Brevard County, Florida.

CARD – ucf-card.org/ Center for Autism and Related Disabilities - 407-823-6011

The University of Central Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities provides services within the geographical region which includes Orange, Lake, Osceola, Sumter, Brevard, Volusia, and Seminole Counties.

The Center serves both children and adults of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism, pervasive developmental disorders, autistic-like disabilities, dual sensory impairments, or sensory impairments with other disabling conditions. Our primary focus is to provide individualized, direct assistance to these individuals and their families. Services include technical assistance and consultation, professional training programs and public education activities. CARD services are designed to build on the capacities of state and local resources, not to duplicate or replace them. The Center is funded by the Florida Legislature through the Florida Department of Education and all services are provided free of charge.

The ARC of Brevard
The ARC of Brevard is a well respected community organization that has been privileged to support children and adults with developmental and other disabilities for more than 50 years in Brevard County, Florida.
Early Learning Coalition of Brevard
Providing children in Brevard County quality programs, resources and services necessary to succeed in school. Available programs include: School Readiness Child Care, Florida First Start, Early Education Training & Support, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).
P.O. Box 560692, Rockledge, FL 32956-0692 Phone: 321-637-7241
Website: www.elcbrevard.org

Family Care Council Area 7
Established in 1993 by Florida Statute, the Family Care Council (FCC) advises the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) on the needs of self-advocates and their families. The 14 local Family Care Councils work with APD in educating, advocating, and empowering families of persons with developmental disabilities (DD). They also assist APD with the delivery of services to persons receiving Med-Waiver funds.
Statewide Website: www.fccflorida.org Click on "7" on map for local contact information.

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)
FDLRS (pronounced Fiddlers) 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. Statewide Website: www.paec.org/fdlrsweb/index.htm

FDLRS East
(Covers Brevard & Volusia Counties)
Brevard Location:
Educational Services Facility, Brevard District School Board
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 633-1000, ext. 540 Website: www.fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/fdlrs/

Parents Planning Programs (PPP) for the Developmentally Disabled of Florida
356LasOlasDrive
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 Phone (321) 724-8899 www.pppflorida.org
A non-profit organization formed by parents seeking to prepare for the future of their loved ones who have developmental disabilities. Offers residential and recreational programs in Brevard County.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
400 N. Miramar Ave., Indialantic, FL 32903
(321) 952-4404 Website: http://www.rfbd.org
Contact: Claudia L. Kickery, Assistant Educational Outreach Director. As the Assistant Educational Outreach Director in this area, I am available to: Assist schools with registration; help with application, book & equipment ordering processes; conduct orientation for staff members; provide training for teachers, students and
parents; make follow-up site visits to address any concerns. **Client Eligibility:** Must have a 504 or an IEP (Individual Education Plan). At the college level, must have print disability as certified by appropriate personnel.

**Space Coast Center for Independent Living**  
**Serves Brevard & Indian River Counties**  
Centers for Independent Living are 501(c)(3), consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, non-residential, private, nonprofit federally mandated agencies. CILs work to empower persons with disabilities to take charge of their lives and guide their own destinies.  
Contact: Donna Taylor  
803 North Fiske Blvd., Suite B  
Cocoa, FL 32922  
(321) 633-6011 TTY: (321) 633-6011 FAX: (321) 633-6472  
sccil@bellsouth.net

**Recreation**  
**Brevard County Parks & Recreation**  

**North Area (Titusville)**  
The North Area Persons with Disabilities Program offers a variety of social activities to mentally and physically challenged individuals. Regular activities provide socialization and offer opportunities for new friendships. **To receive a monthly calendar or for more information call 321-264-5058 or 321-264-5105.**  
Email: northarea@brevardparks.com  
Schedule includes bowling, dances, games, crafts & activities, Special Olympics events, special field trips and other events. See main website above & click on North Area for times & locations.

**Central Area (Merritt Island)**  
Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services: Programs in Central Brevard reflect the use of Therapeutic Recreation for children and adults at all ability levels. Weekdays include School visits with students in Exceptional Education classes and Adult Day-Care Centers providing services to develop and use their leisure in ways that enhance their health, independence and well-being. Evening activities are more social and create opportunities for transition into our community of inclusion. Some activities require an admission and-or transportation fee. **Monthly calendar is available by calling 455-1380.**  
Email: mibeaches@brevardparks.com

**South Area (Melbourne)**  
The South Area provides a variety of social activities for children and adults with intellectual and-or physical disabilities. Activities offer opportunities to socialize, practice new skills, participate in field trips, learn life skills, establish new friendships and serve the community. Various activities throughout the year range from weekly Friday dances, to monthly field trips, to movie nights, and Special Olympic practices. **Each month a calendar of events is distributed to participants** through either their day program or at Friday Night Dances. Call 321-255-4436 for more information. Email: southharea@brevardparks.com.
The Agency for Persons with Disabilities works in partnership with local communities to support people with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD provides critical services and supports for customers with developmental disabilities so they can reach their full potential. The agency serves people with spina bifida, autism, cerebral palsy, Prader-Willi syndrome, and mental retardation. There is no charge or co-payment for services provided through the agency.

**Eligibility**
A person must live in Florida, be at least three years old, and have a developmental disability that occurred before the age of 18 to be eligible for APD services. Children ages three to five who are at risk of being diagnosed with a developmental disability may also be served by APD. APD may provide a free assessment to determine if someone is eligible for services.

**Applying for Services**
An individual who has or might have a developmental disability or their authorized representative may apply for services at any time by contacting the Agency for Persons with Disabilities office in their area. The supports and services for persons with developmental disabilities are provided through APD’s 14 area offices around the state. Agency for Persons with Disabilities 4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950 1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273) (850) 488-4257 apdcares.org

**Programs**
APD customers may be served in their community by funding provided through several waiver programs. Other customers are provided assistance without being enrolled in a waiver program. Some APD customers are served at two Developmental Disability Centers. The agency helps more than 35,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities each year.

**Developmental Disability Centers Serving Floridians with Developmental Disabilities**
The waiver tiers support individuals who live in their homes or in the community. Enrollment into any of these waivers is limited and subject to available funding. People in crisis receive priority for enrollment. Those who are homeless, pose a danger to themselves or others, or no longer have a caregiver may qualify for a crisis designation.

The *Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+)* program allows customers in these waivers to direct their own care and develop a purchasing plan to manage their allocated monthly budgets in order to meet their long-term care. Florida has the largest and most comprehensive CDC+ project in the nation, with about 3,000 persons with developmental disabilities currently enrolled.
Some people with developmental disabilities prefer to receive services and supports living in a home with other people with similar disabilities. The state of Florida has two centers: Sunland Center in Marianna and Tacachale Center in Gainesville. About 700 people currently live in these facilities. In addition, the agency serves people found incompetent to go to trial due to their developmental disabilities. These individuals are served at APD centers and at a facility located in Chattahoochee. About 200 people live in these locations.

APD provides a variety of medically necessary services to about 31,000 customers who are currently enrolled in Florida’s four developmental disabilities Medicaid waivers—called waiver tiers. Those services may include occupational and physical therapy, nursing, mental health counseling, personal care assistance, transportation, companion, behavior therapy, in-home support, adult dental services, and respite care.

**Medicaid Waiver Tiers**
Three of the waivers have financial caps. An individual’s tier assignment is based on the needed level of service, current living situation, and other factors.
- Tier 1 Cap of $150,000 a year (Some exceptions)
- Tier 4 Cap of $14,422 a year
- Tier 2, Cap of $53,625 a year
- Tier 3 Cap of $34,125 a year

**Children’s Medical Services (CMS)**
The Children’s Medical Services (CMS) program provides children with special health care needs with a family centered, managed system of care. Children with special health care needs are those children under age 21 whose serious or chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions require extensive preventive and maintenance care beyond that required by typically healthy children. Website: [http://www.cms-kids.com/default.htm](http://www.cms-kids.com/default.htm)

**Florida Kid Care – [http://www.floridakidcare.org/](http://www.floridakidcare.org/)**
**Health insurance for children based on your income – Medicaid approved**

Through Florida Kid Care, 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 Kid Care 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.
- **MEDICAID:** children birth through 18. A child who has other health insurance may still qualify for Medicaid.

Some of the services Florida Kid Care covers are:

- Doctor visits
- Surgery
- Check-ups and shots
- Prescriptions
- Hospital
- Vision and hearing
There are several ways to apply for Florida Kid Care:

- If you applied for Florida Kid Care before, call 1-888-540-5437 to update your information by telephone, or Apply online,
- Florida Kid Care also offers several ways for you to pay your monthly premium.
- Print an Application and Instructions

**CMS – Children’s Medical Services, Rockledge**
1133 Seminole Dr
Rockledge, FL 32955
(321) 690-3850
Asst. Regional Medical Director: William Knappenberger, M.D.
Nursing Director: Julie Byczek, R.N.

**Early Steps**
Early Steps is administered by Children's Medical Services (CMS) in accordance with IDEA, Part C. Early Steps offers early intervention services for families with infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) who have developmental delays or an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay.

- 321-634-3688
- Fax: 321-504-0955
- Althea Puzio – Program Manager
- e-mail: althea_puzio@doh.state.fl.us

**Pre-K programs for children with disabilities for ages 3-5**
Brevard Public School System- Call Child Find: 321-631-1911 X 552 for more information and to enroll your child.

**Space Coast Area Transit (SCAT)**
Public transport system for Brevard County. There isn't any eligibility requirement for most services. Some may be determined by a funding agency.
401 South Varr Avenue, Cocoa, Florida 32922.
321) 635-7815
Carmen Baez, Customer Service Supervisor: carmen@ridescat.com
Website: http://www.ridescat.com/

**Support Groups**

**Brevard Melbourne Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group**
Contact: Brenda Buchweitz (HealthSouth Sea Pines at 321-728-0258)

**Brevard Rockledge Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Support Group**
Contact: Vikki Weinberg 321- 268-5103 Co-chair John Dillon

**SOAK – Supporting our Aspie Kids**
Angels Bridging Gaps – Autism Support Group in Brevard County
jbyearby@angelsbridginggaps.org

CHADD – South Brevard Satellite
Support group for Children & Adults with Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder. Working TOGETHER with our Experience, Education, & Support we will become better Advocates for our children! Please join us and share your thoughts and experiences. Support groups are a great way to learn more about the skills that will make a difference in your child's life!
Contact: Heather : south-brevard@chadd.net Website: www.SouthBrevardChadd.com

Families Exploring Down Syndrome (FEDS) - Brevard
FEDS (Families Exploring Down Syndrome) We are a group of parents who support each other as we travel down this road together. This website was created to help new parents and old to find information about Down syndrome in our county. Come to a breakfast to gain information about therapies, schools or just enjoy being with other moms who have beautiful children that happen to have that little extra chromosome. Come meet the sweet new babies!
When: First Tuesday of the month, Time: 9:30 a.m. – Noon
For Location and additional information Contact Kim at 321-720-6017
Website: www.fedsofbrevard.org

F.E.L.L.
Friendship, Expression of Laughter, and Life. A support group that meets weekly to share information with one another. Through the dynamics of self awareness, one can learn about living ones dreams and getting off grudge island. Current Meeting Schedule: Every Tuesday, 10:00a to 12:00 noon at St. Timothy’s, 1901 Croton Rd, Melbourne** and Every Thursday, 9:30a to 11:30a at Bridges, 1694 Cedar St, Rockledge. **Please note: Childcare is provided at the Melbourne FELL group meeting only. For more information, contact Terry Tomaka at 321.723.2677 x 14507 ttomaka@mybridges.org

Parent Training & Information Center:
Central Florida Parent Center / AWARE Project
Milagros Pou, Diane Joslin, or Eileen Gilley
Home Office - (888) 612-9273 or (727) 789-2400


http://www.cflparents.org/infobylocation/centralflorida/brevardresources.htm