



Special Olympics Florida has made every effort to provide the most current Parent Resource List. Your assistance in maintaining this directory is greatly appreciated. If there is an error or as time passes and changes occur, please contact us at (352) 243-9536. Additionally, if you know of any other support groups for families of persons with disabilities, please let us know. Your assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.

STATE

- **Abilities of Florida** (a ServiceSource Affiliate) –Offers a variety of rehabilitation and employment services for people in the state of Florida with disabilities. Their programs include vocational evaluation and training, benefits planning, housing programs, and opportunities for self-employment. <https://servicesource.org/abilities/#about>
- **ABLE United** – The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allowed for states to create tax-free savings and investment accounts for individuals with disabilities. Florida's program encourages and assists the saving of private funds to help persons with disabilities cover costs that support their health, independence and quality of life. <https://www.ableunited.com/>
- **Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)** –The agency supports individuals with disabilities and their families in living, learning and working within their communities by creating multiple pathways to possibilities. <https://apd.myflorida.com>
- **The ARC** –Working with local, state, and national partners, The Arc of Florida advocates for local chapters, public policies, and high-quality supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community. <https://www.arcflorida.org>
- **The Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)** - National membership organization focused exclusively on Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace and community. <https://apse.org/chapter/florida/>
- **Autism Society of Florida** – Creates connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. They support people with Autism through advocacy, education, information and referrals, support, and community building. Autistic individuals participate in every level of our governance to ensure they represent a diverse and inclusive group across many intersectionalities. <https://autismfl.org>
- **Center for Autism and Related Disabilities** – Provides support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities. <https://florida-card.org/>

- **Disability Rights of Florida** - Disability Rights Florida is a nonprofit organization that provides legal advocacy and rights protection for adults and children with a wide range of disabilities. Staff attorneys, advocates and investigators address civil rights violations, abuse and neglect, and discrimination. <https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/disability-topics/>
- **Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida** - The foundation provides people with Down syndrome and families opportunities to enhance their lives through strategic partnerships, unique programs that create 'inclusion' settings naturally, family support, and meaningful community involvement. <https://dsfflorida.org/>
- **Family Café** - The Family Café exists to provide individuals with disabilities and their families with an opportunity for collaboration, advocacy, friendship and empowerment by serving as a facilitator of communication, a space for dialogue and a source of information. <https://familycafe.net/resources/>
- **Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.** - A family-driven grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families. FND was founded in 1985 by a group of parents of persons with disabilities who came together for mutual support and information-sharing. <https://fndusa.org>
- **Feeding Florida** - Feeding Florida unites 9 Feeding America member food banks who work with more than 2,400 community-based partner agencies to provide food directly to individuals and families in need in every community every day. <https://www.feedingflorida.org/feeding-florida/florida-food-banks>
- **Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living** - A statewide membership organization whose mission is to strengthen the capacity of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to support community living and independence for Floridians with disabilities. <https://floridacils.org/>
- **Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)**- The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Comprehensive Managed Care (ICMC) Program is a statewide Medicaid program that provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities all their regular healthcare services plus additional home and community-based services. <https://ahca.myflorida.com/icmc-program#what-you-get>
- **Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC)** - Through leadership in research and evaluation, theory, policy, capacity building, and practice, the FCIC is committed to developing a range of supports and services in the areas of Community Supports, Early Childhood, Education, Employment, Health, and Interdisciplinary Training. <https://flfcic.cbcs.usf.edu/index.html>
- **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council** – Established to affect policy and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and their supporters through education, advocacy and partnerships. <https://www.fddc.org/>
- **Florida Health** - Registering for a Special Needs Shelter is a critical step to help ensure safety during emergencies. By signing up in advance, you can help allow local emergency management to prepare the resources and support you may need. <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/spns/index.html>

- **Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV)** – Upon request by a person who has a developmental disability, or by a parent or legal guardian of a child or ward who has a developmental disability, the capital letter “D” can be exhibited on the driver license or identification card and/or the “SAFE” designation for a motor vehicle registration to alert law enforcement and emergency personnel in a crisis or emergency situation.

<https://www.flhsmv.gov/pdf/forms/72120.pdf>

You can also register emergency contact information (ECI) with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles so law enforcement can quickly contact your loved ones during a crisis, even across state lines.

<https://mydmvportal.flhsmv.gov/home/en/publicweb/ecioutside/>

- **National Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida** - The FOUNDATION provides people with Down syndrome and families opportunities to enhance their lives through strategic partnerships, unique programs that create 'inclusion' settings naturally, family support, and meaningful community involvement. <https://dsfflorida.org/>
- **Project 10** - The mission of Project 10: Transition Education Network is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. <https://project10.info/>
- **Step-up Scholarship- Florida Resident** - Step Up for Students empowers families to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children. Select and apply for a scholarship that will open the door to a private school, different public school, tutor, therapist, specialist and more. <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>
- **Vocational Rehabilitation** - Helps people with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence. <https://www.rehabworks.org/>

NATIONWIDE

- **Achieving A Better Life Experience National Resource Center (ABLE NRC)** - ABLE’s mission is to educate, promote and support the positive impact ABLE accounts can make on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities and their families. They drive action to help people open and manage ABLE accounts as a tool to secure their financial future. <https://www.ablenrc.org/>
- **Job Accommodation Network** - JAN is a source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations. <https://askjan.org/>
- **National Caregiver Help Desk** - Get free advice from a caregiving expert, easy access to hundreds of resources, and a caregiving community. <https://www.caregiveraction.org/helpdesk/>
- **Celebrate EDU** - Celebrate EDU is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing entrepreneurial education to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the U.S. <https://celebrateedu.org/>
- **ChildCare.gov** - Helps parents access safe and quality childcare services in their community that best suits their family’s needs. <https://childcare.gov/>

- **Council for Exceptional Children** - International professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. <https://exceptionalchildren.org>
- **Find Help** - Connect people to helpful programs that improve outcomes for families, children, veterans, students, and employees with our comprehensive platform built on the nation's largest and most engaged social care network. <https://findhelp.org/>
- **Got Transition** - Got Transition® is a national resource center on health care transition (HCT). The mission is to improve the transition from pediatric to adult health care through the use of evidence-driven strategies for clinicians and other health care professionals; public health programs; payers and plans; youth and young adults; and parents and caregivers. www.gottransition.org
- **Military OneSource** - Military OneSource from the War Department is your 24/7 gateway to trusted information, resources and confidential help. Families with a member who has special needs may find help assisting with special education, financial planning, child care and much more to help your family thrive. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/special-needs/>
- **Searchable Now** - Searchable Now provides users with a national special needs research database. <https://www.searchablenow.com/>