



Navigating Community Resources for Children & Youth with Disabilities



The Advocacy Network on Disabilities

What is The Advocacy Network on Disabilities?

MISSION

"The Advocacy Network on Disabilities champions the rights of individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities by promoting inclusion, providing services, and advancing systems change."

Objective

At the end of this training participants will demonstrate an introductory knowledge about basic resources for children and youth with disabilities and their families.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS:

Birth to 36 months



EVALUATIONS: for infants and toddlers whose parents, teachers, or others, are concerned they may have a developmental delay or disability.

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES:

for infants and toddlers determined eligible based on a diagnosed condition or significant delay.

Two sites in Miami-Dade County:



North Dade

Located in Civic Center area

(305) 243-6660

Fax referrals to:

(305) 243-3501

Southernmost Coast

Located in Cutler Bay area

(786) 268-2611

Fax referrals to:

(786) 268-1748

PRE-SCHOOLERS:

36 months - 5 years old

FDLRS

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System



SCREENINGS: With parent consent, free at your site for children who are not enrolled in public schools and considered to be potential candidates for Special Education services (speech/language, hearing, vision, developmental)

EVALUATIONS: This office handles the referrals for evaluations for children not enrolled in public schools

PARENT SERVICES: provides training, information about community resources, and guidance to families

Phone number: (305) 274-3501

HELP ME GROW

Operated by JCS 2-1-1



Supports questions and concerns of families regarding children Birth-8

- Health and developmental screenings
- Information, Resources, Materials
- Referrals with enhanced advocacy and follow up
- Assistance enrolling in community programs

Evaluation and Services Kindergarten- 21 yrs. old

Division of Special Education M-DCPS

Provides services for children 5 to 21 yrs. old
with qualifying disabilities

**Services include evaluations for children
with suspected disabilities**

Evaluations are requested at the child's
corresponding home school

All students that qualify for services have an
(IEP)

The Process Simplified

Child is referred for an evaluation



Child is evaluated within 60 days of parent consent



Eligible students receive services as specified in IEP

Adapted from "The Basic Special Education Process under IDEA 2004"- NICHCY website

What the School Does Not Do...

**MDCPS does not diagnose!
Rather...**

Students are identified to be in a category- or eligibility criteria- for placement purposes

Medical professionals can provide a diagnoses

Important Details Parents Should Know...

Concerned about your child?
Begin by speaking to his/her teacher

Find out who in the school is in charge of
Special Education- this varies!

Request for evaluation should be **in writing**

Important Details Parents Should Know...

Create a file for the child's records

Ask for all professionals to explain evaluation results

Parents actively participate in writing the IEP, & are their *child's most important advocate!*

It's a good idea for parents to bring someone to the IEP meeting that may be of support to them

School Choices

McKay Scholarship

Provides scholarships for eligible students with disabilities to attend an eligible public or private school of their choice.

To be eligible, the student must have an IEP or 504 accommodation plan AND have attended a Florida public school the prior year.

The scholarship amount is based on the student's IEP or 504 Plan and the services provided by the district.

Phone: 1-800-447-1636

<http://www.fl DOE.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/mckay>

School Choices

Step Up Scholarships

Income based:

Special needs:

Pays up to \$5,677 (2015-16 school year) for school expenses:

- Tuition
- Books
- Uniforms
- Registration
- Transportation
- Testing

The average amount is **\$10,000**, and can be used for:

- School
- Therapies
- Specialists
- Curriculum
- Technology
- College Savings

Phone: 1-877-735-7837

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>

How Can Your Program Help Children with Disabilities (or Suspected)?

Communicate and partner with parents and service providers

Schedule conferences with parents to support the student

Provide resources and referral information to families



How Else Can You Help?

Provide staff with professional development in the area of the student's disability

Reach out to other professionals that can support program in including the student

Useful Documents

- ✓ "Getting to Know Me"
- ✓ Authorization for Exchange of Information
- ✓ Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
- ✓ Evaluation recommendations & strategies
- ✓ Parent-Teacher Conference documentation

Resources to Support Parents

Learning Disabilities and other

www.nclld.org

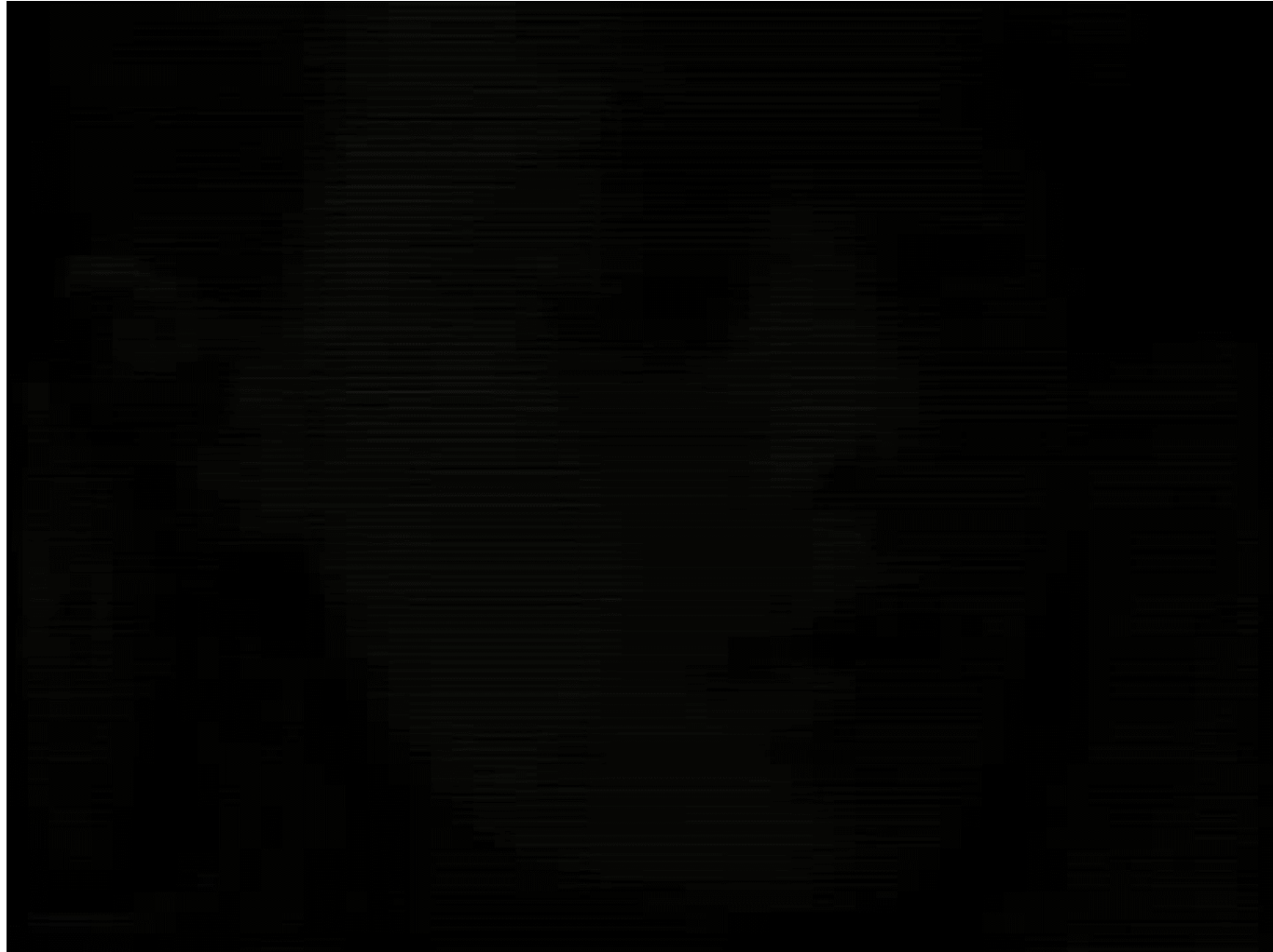
Developmental Disabilities, including Autism

www.disabilityscoop.com

Mental Health- Emotional/Behavioral

www.nimh.nih.gov

What a difference knowledge makes...



RESOURCES

Great Starting Points...

Dial 211

The Children's Trust is funding 211 in Miami-Dade County to make this resource and referral line available to everyone in our community. Includes referrals to after school care, summer program and child care centers.

<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org/parents/helpline>

APD Resource Directory

Search engine by zip-code or city listing general resources and also disability specific

<http://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/resourcedirectory/>

FDLRS Resource Guide

A compilation of resources, general and disability specific

<http://prekese.dadeschools.net/-docs/ForTeachers/email-weeklybriefings/emails13-14/4.2.14%20FDLRS.pdf>

Great Starting Points...

The Advocacy Network on Disabilities

Family Support Coordinators assists families and professionals identify and access the services they need and want

Phone: 305-596-1160

<http://advocacynetwork.org>

Parent to Parent of Miami

Offers parents of children with special needs education, information and advocacy

Phone: 305-271-9797

www.ptopmiami.org

Disability Specific

Autism

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Vision Impairment

Mental Health

Autism

UM-NSU C.A.R.D.

Center for Autism and Related Disorders

A good starting point for families suspecting or learning of their child's diagnoses.

- Provides family and professional training
- Individualized client and family support
- Programmatic Consultation and technical assistance
- Facilitates social groups

Intake appointment phone: (305) 284-5440

<http://www.umcard.org/index.php>

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

711

Florida Relay Service is the communication link for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. Dial 711 from any phone to connect.

Sign Language Interpreters

American Sign Language Interpreters, Inc

5800 S.W. 5th Terrace

Miami, FL 33144

Phone: 786-393-4864

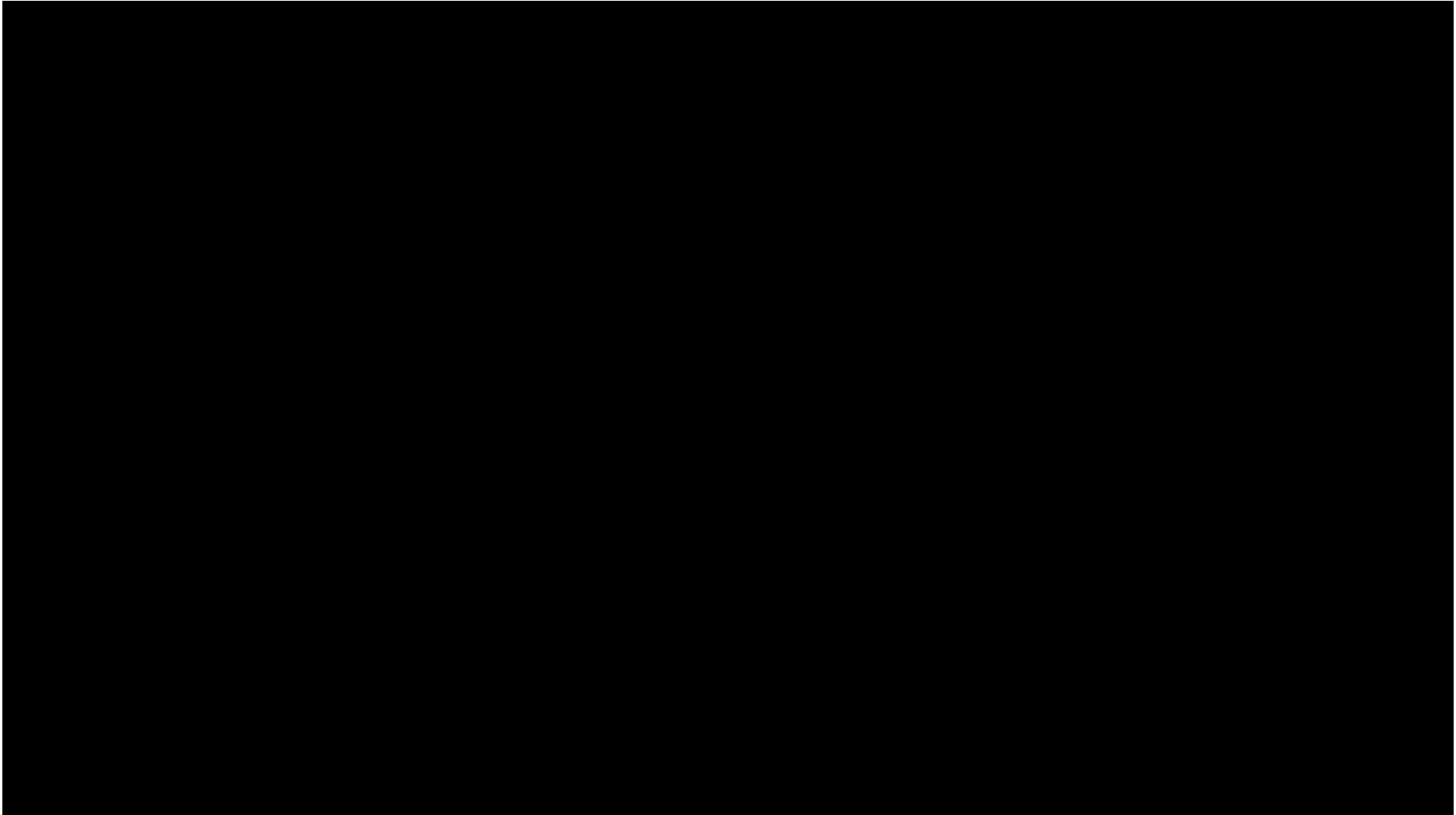
American Sign Language Services, Inc

Phone: 407-518-7900 extension 334

Toll Free: 1-888-SIGN-ASL

FAX: 407-518-7903

Relay 711 Service



Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)

Non-profit organization funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 and the State of Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The mission 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.

<http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/community-outreach/assistive-technology/faast>

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

Visual Impairments

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind provides a variety of services for people with visual impairments, such as:

- Programs for babies through adults at no cost to families
- Braille lessons and translation of written language
- Professional training and technical assistance support to program's serving children with visual impairments

Phone Number: 305-856-2288 <http://miamilighthouse.org/>

Florida Division of Blind Services

Helps blind and visually impaired Floridians achieve their goals and live productive and independent lives. Services cover all ages from babies to senior citizens and offer Employer Services, the Braille and Talking Books Library, and the Business Enterprise Program.

<http://dbs.myflorida.com/>

Mental Health

Institute for Child and Family Health (ICFH) provides child and family counseling services in the family's home, the child's school, or in one of three outpatient centers.

North Dade number: (305) 722-7159

South Dade number: (305) 722-5636

PsychSolutions provides individual and family therapy, psychiatric evaluation and mental health targeted case management. Services may be in the client's homes and in some M-DCPS sites.

Main office number: (305) 668-9000

Resources for Children Without Insurance

Act4me

Provides therapy scholarships for up to \$3500 for children with neurological disabilities who do not have Medicaid

Contact: Martha Poulat Phone: (786) 473-6020

More information at: www.act4me.org

FL Elks

Provides free physical therapy for uninsured children up to 18 yrs. old in Miami Dade County

Contact: Chantal Salnave

(305) 278-2044

Resources for Children Without Insurance

Shriner's Hospital (Tampa)

Offers care at no cost to uninsured children with
orthopedic conditions

Contact for referrals:

1-813-972-2250 ext.: 7740

Financial Assistance

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Financial assistance to adult and children with disabilities who have limited income and resources

Maximum Assets \$2000 not counting home

Maximum Payment \$735

Applications on-line or visit your local SSA office

FL residents who are eligible for SSI automatically receive Medicaid from the State

For more information: 1-800-772-1213

<http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm>

Planning for the Future

- The Achieving a Better Life Experience (**ABLE**) Act allows individuals with disabilities and their family and friends to save for future expenses, like popular Roth IRA and 529 college savings plans, while maintaining government benefits.

Medical Assistance Medicaid Today

Primarily a system of Managed care
10+ choice plans available

Medicaid recipients enrolled/receiving
waiver services or waiting for waiver
services are NOT required to participate.
Those recipients may continue receiving
Medicaid "Open Access"

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

The state agency responsible for serving the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

In the state of FL, a developmental disability is defined as:

Autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, intellectual disability, children age 3-5 at a high risk of a developmental disability

There are priority categories for accessing services

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Waiting list for services, the lower the priority area,
the longer the wait

There are 30,000 people on waiting list in Florida and
more than 5000 in Miami-Dade County.

Everyone who may be eligible for services should
apply and be added to the waiting list.

Phone: 305-349-1478

www.apdmyflorida.com

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job

What type of services are offered?

Medical and Psychological Assessment
Vocational Evaluation and Planning
Training and Education after High School
Job Placement & Coaching

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Candidates can self refer and children are linked as part of transition services in last year of High School

Visit <http://www.rehabworks.org>

to access a VR office directory

Contact your local office to request services

Questions?

(800) 451-4327 or

(866) 515-3692

EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - APD

- Supported Employment Coaching for individuals not working with VR to obtain and maintain competitive employment and participate in paid or unpaid internships as a path to employment. Any individual in Florida who meets APD eligibility, on the APD Waiting List, and over the age 18 may be considered for participation in the EEP.



To receive your certificate for completing this training,
please visit: <http://collabornation.net/login/advocacynetwork>