



# Family Care Council Florida

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## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2009-2010

*Family Care Council Florida (FCCF) is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We do not have paid lobbyists.*

*We are committed to educating, advocating, and empowering all Floridians with developmental disabilities, and have pledged to continue working closely with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to stabilize the existing system. We want to be part of the solution to strengthen the developmental disability system, therefore ensuring the protection of Floridians with developmental disabilities.*

*Viewed through the prism of our collective experiences, we identify the following priorities:*

- ◆ **End the Wait List.** We recommend the creation of a strategic plan that will reduce and eliminate the waiting list for services for Floridians with developmental disabilities. The Plan will include but is not limited to:
  - ◆ Effective assessment and reprioritization of those on the waitlist;
  - ◆ Development of projected budgets and timelines for individuals based on need;
  - ◆ Identification of stable and dedicated sources of revenue streams.
  
- ◆ **Protect Health and Safety.** We recommend the identification of alternative and dedicated revenue and funding sources to support Human Services Programs that are charged with protecting the health and safety of all Floridians with developmental disabilities:
  - ◆ Ensure that all State entities that have statutory requirements for serving Floridians with developmental disabilities (i.e., DOE, AHCA, DCF/APS) honor those responsibilities;
  - ◆ Maximize the use of state dollars to increase Medicaid matching funds;
  - ◆ Prevent future cuts to the programs and services offered through APD.
  
- ◆ **Maintain APD.** We support the continuation of APD as a stand-alone agency moving towards stabilizing programs and services to all Floridians with developmental disabilities:
  - ◆ Reinforce the mission of APD to serve the unique needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities;
  - ◆ Promote good stewardship and utilization of funding streams through a systemic review of policies and procedures to increase fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
  - ◆ Promote grassroots efforts on behalf of Floridians with developmental disabilities that focus on individual needs and community supports.

*Date: January 17, 2009*