

# Believe *in the* Future

## *Families are the Driving Force*

**F**amilies often feel they will lose their dream of self-sufficiency and independence for their children, when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability (DD) for their child. However, with proper support, both families and individuals with DD can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

**C**aring people, that's what it takes! The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and our State and Federal government support the principles of inclusion, self-determination, community living, successful transition to adult life and integrated employment. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities and their support workers must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

**C**ollaboration is a powerful tool. If this philosophy is to succeed, families must be the driving force. Barriers need to continually be identified and broken down and necessary programs and policies put into place. We must all work together for the benefit of all persons with developmental disabilities. Together - we can make this happen.

**Get Involved!**

## *What is a Developmental Disability?*

**D**evelopmental Disability is a term that refers to a variety of conditions that interfere with a person's ability to function in everyday activities. Chapter 393, Florida Statutes, define developmental disabilities as:

- Mental Retardation
- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- High-risk (3-5 Years)



# FCCF

## *Mission*

The mission of the Family Care Council Florida is to advocate, educate, and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, partnering with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), to bring quality services to individuals for dignity and choice.

*Visit us at*  
**[www.FCCFlorida.org](http://www.FCCFlorida.org)**  
**1-800-470-8101**



*The  
American  
Dream  
for All  
Individuals  
with  
Developmental  
Disabilities.*

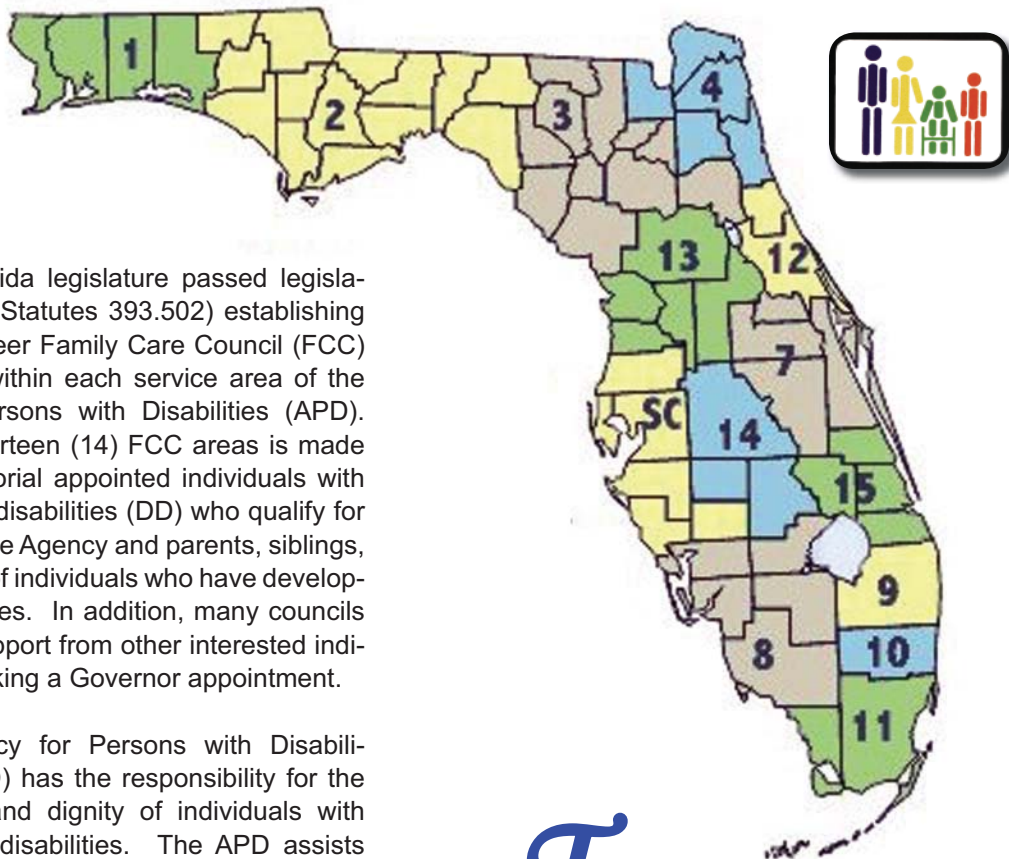
*Family  
Care  
Council  
Florida*

**Believe  
*in the* Future**



**Family Care Council Florida**  
**Patty Houghland, Chairperson**  
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# about the Family Care Council



In 1993, Florida legislature passed legislation (Florida Statutes 393.502) establishing an all volunteer Family Care Council (FCC) to be located within each service area of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). Each of the fourteen (14) FCC areas is made up of gubernatorial appointed individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) who qualify for services from the Agency and parents, siblings, and guardians of individuals who have developmental disabilities. In addition, many councils receive vital support from other interested individuals not seeking a Governor appointment.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) has the responsibility for the welfare and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities. The APD assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing assistance to identify needs and funding to purchase supports and services.

The purpose of each Family Care Council (FCC) is to advise the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) in developing a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the services and supports provided under the plan.

The functions of the FCC are:

- Assist** in providing information, education and out reach to families;
- Review** and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports and services;
- Advise** local administrators with respect to particular community and family needs; and
- Meet** and share information with other Family Care Councils.

## at the local level:

Each area Family Care Council represents the counties in that area, working closely with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to help families needing and receiving services in their area. The local FCC works closely with other disability organizations and programs to gain and improve services and opportunities in the local community for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The FCCs invite you to become involved in your area council. Everyone is welcome. It is important your voice be part of decisions affecting the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Additional information is always available on the FCC web site.

To contact your area

*Family Care Council*

call: 1-800-470-8101

web site: [www.FCCFlorida.org](http://www.FCCFlorida.org)

## at the state level:

Area councils work together through the statewide Family Care Council Florida (FCCF). The FCCF meets bi-monthly to share education, information and concerns to take back to their local area councils. In addition, Family Care Council members are on various committees, initiatives, and task forces representing Florida's individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state.