

Inclusion and Self-Determination

Families are the Driving Force

Families 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 supports, both families and individuals with DD can thrive and achieve their chosen goals.

Caring 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, and successful transition to adult life and integrated employment. Families and individuals with developmental disabilities and their support workers must keep the dream of a full and rich life the goal at all times.

Collaboration 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.

Make time to get involved!

What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental 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, defines developmental disabilities as:

- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down syndrome
- Intellectual Disability
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Spina Bifida
- High-Risk (3-5 Years)



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
1-800-470-8101



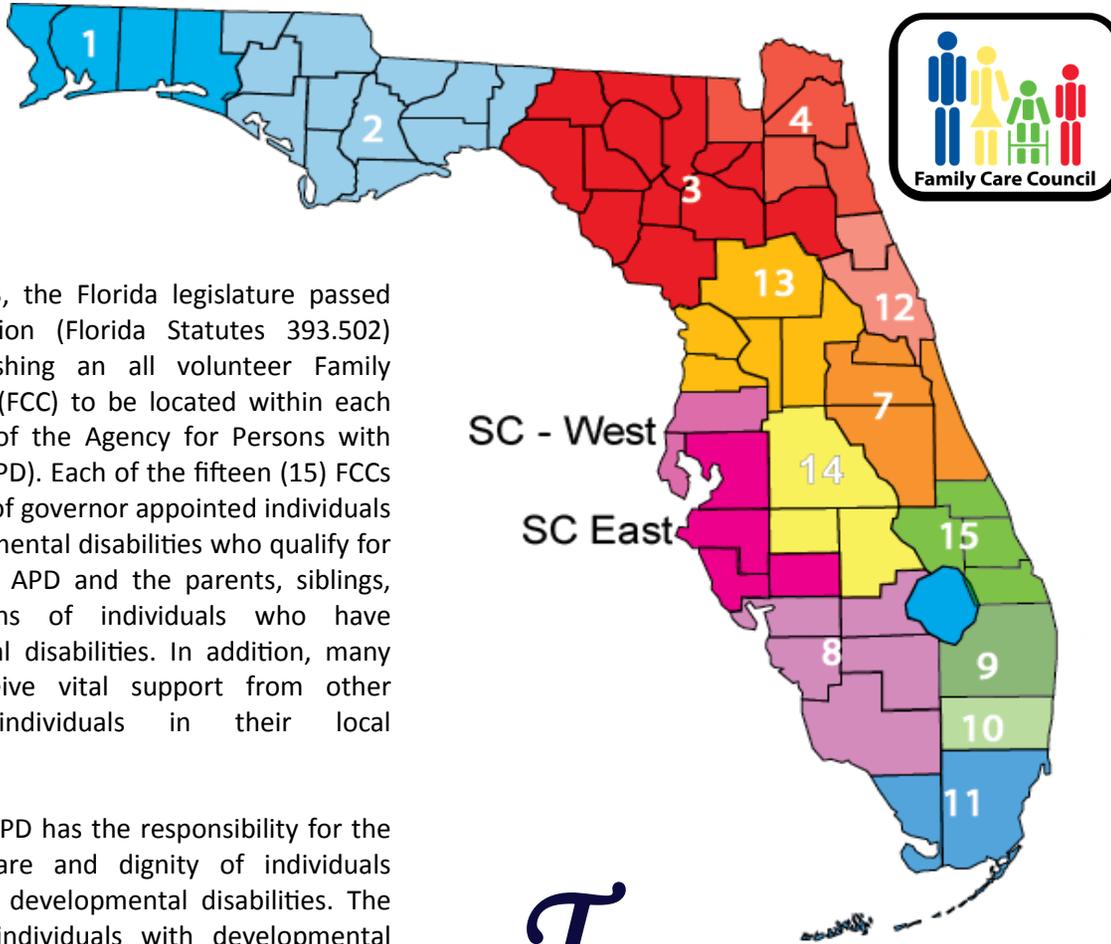
*The
American
Dream
for all
Individuals
with
Developmental
Disabilities*

*Family
Care
Council*

**Believe
in the Future**



about the Family Care Council



In 1993, the 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 fifteen (15) FCCs are made up of governor appointed individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for services from APD and the parents, siblings, and guardians of individuals who have developmental disabilities. In addition, many councils receive vital support from other interested individuals in their local communities.

The 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 FCC is to advise the APD in developing a local plan for the delivery of family support services and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the services and supports provided.

The functions of FCC are to:

Provide education and outreach to families;

Review and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports and services;

Advocate for local community and family needs

Meet and share information with other Family Care Councils.

at the local level:

Each FCC represents a geographic area and works closely with the regional APD office to help families receiving services. The FCC also works closely with other local disability organizations and programs to access services and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who may be on the APD Wait List.

The FCCs invite you to become involved in your area council. Everyone is welcome. It is important that you participate in decisions affecting the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Information about local councils is available on the FCC website.

To contact your area
Family Care Council
call: 1-800-470-8101
website: www.FCCFlorida.org

at the state level:

Area councils join together through the statewide Family Care Council Florida (FCCF). The FCCF meets bi-monthly to share information and concerns, to and from their local area councils. FCCF members also serve on various state level committees, initiatives and task forces concerning Florida's residents with developmental disabilities.