



Family Care Councils of Florida

www.fccflorida.org

OVERVIEW

In 1993, the Florida Legislature created the Family Care Councils ([Section 393.502, Florida Statutes](#)) in each service area of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to advise the agency, develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area, and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and supports provided under the plan.

While APD has the responsibility for the welfare and dignity of individuals with developmental disabilities, the Family Care Councils (FCCs) are governor-appointed volunteers who advocate for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

There are 15 local FCCs throughout the state. Each council is made up of 10 to 15 members, which reflects the geographical areas and the various disabilities, ethnicity, and ages served by the agency. The membership is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians of people with developmental disabilities who qualify for APD services.

ROLE OF THE FAMILY CARE COUNCIL

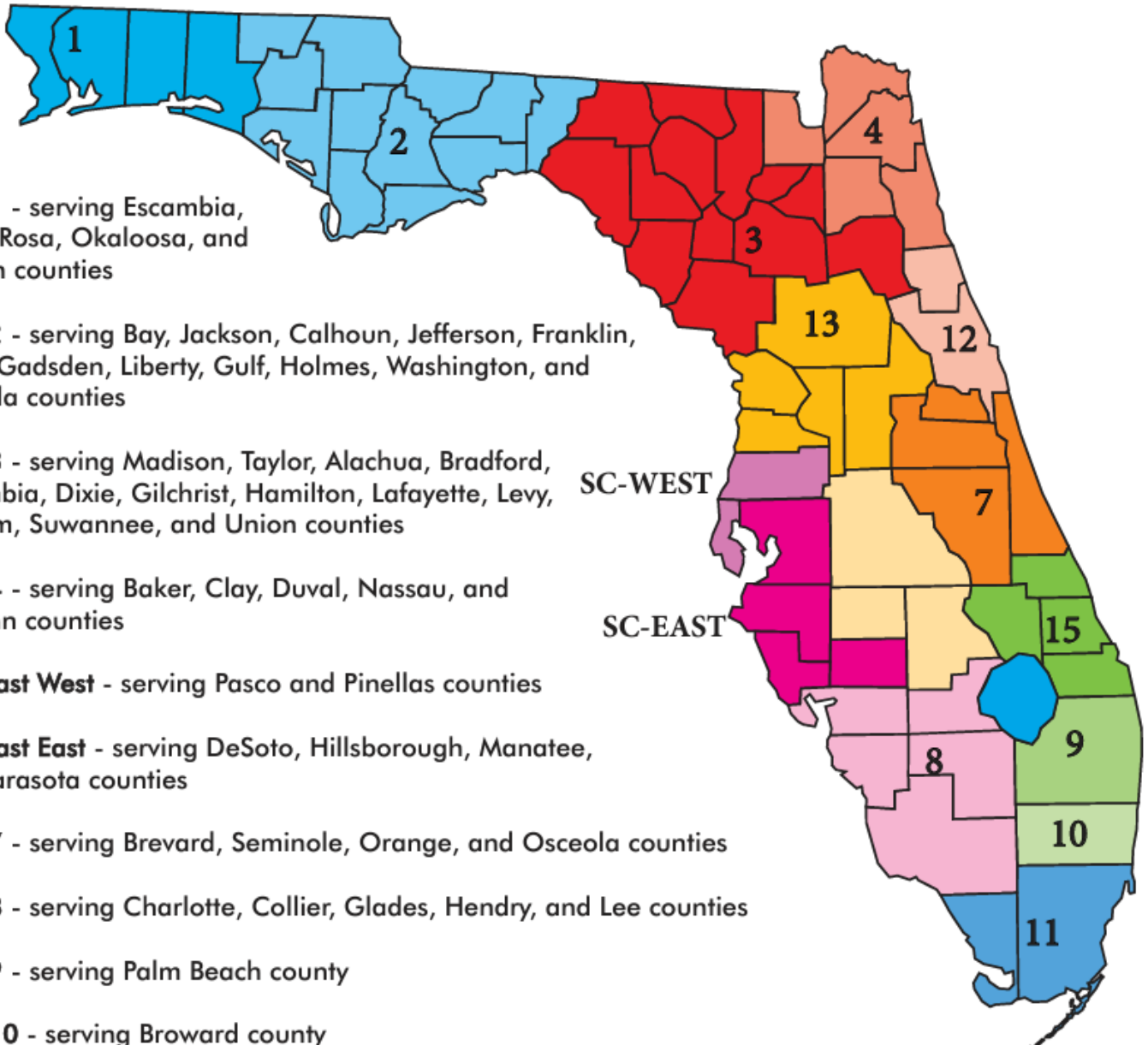
The purpose of the FCCs is to advise APD, to develop a plan for the delivery of family support services within the local area, and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of services and support provided under the plan. The primary functions of the councils are to:

- Assist in providing information and outreach to families.
- Review the effectiveness of service programs and make recommendations with respect to program implementation.
- Advise the agency with respect to policy issues relevant to the community and family support system in the local area.
- Meet and share information with other local family care councils.



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Area 1 - serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties

Area 2 - serving Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Jefferson, Franklin, Leon, Gadsden, Liberty, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, and Wakulla counties

Area 3 - serving Madison, Taylor, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union counties

Area 4 - serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. John counties

Suncoast West - serving Pasco and Pinellas counties

Suncoast East - serving DeSoto, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties

Area 7 - serving Brevard, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties

Area 8 - serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties

Area 9 - serving Palm Beach county

Area 10 - serving Broward county

Area 11 - serving Dade and Monroe counties

Area 12 - serving Flagler and Volusia counties

Area 13 - serving Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties

Area 14 - serving Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties

Area 15 - serving Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie counties

EDUCATE *and* EMPOWER

Families often feel they will lose the dream of self-sufficiency for their child when they receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability. However, with proper supports, both families and individuals with developmental disabilities 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, successful transition to adult life, and integrated employment. Families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and their Waiver Support Coordinators 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 in place. We must all work together for the benefit of all people with developmental disabilities. Together, we can make this happen. Make time to get involved!



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —

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

A 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)
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome



Family Care Council Florida
www.fccflorida.org
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SERVING FAMILIES *since 1993*



Family Care Council
— educate and empower —



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 15 FCCs is made up of Governor-appointed individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for services from APD and the parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians of individuals who have developmental disabilities. In addition, many councils receive vital support from interested individuals in their local communities.

APD has the responsibility for the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities. APD supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by helping them identify needs and funding to purchase supports and services.

The purpose of each FCC is to advise APD, develop a plan for the delivery of family support services, and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the services and supports provided under the plan.

FUNCTIONS OF THE FCCs

- Provide education and outreach to families.
- Review and make recommendations as to the effectiveness of the delivery of supports and services.
- Share information with other Family Care Councils



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 Waiting List.

We invite you to become involved in your local 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, www.fccflorida.org.



AT THE STATE LEVEL

- Representatives from the area FCCs gather together with State Office APD leadership to share information and concerns on behalf of their local councils and families in their vicinity.
- FCC members serve on various state-level committees, initiatives, and task forces concerning Florida's residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

