Services Resource List

*The Dan Marino Foundation provides these resources for informational purposes only and as a starting point for your own research. The Dan Marino Foundation does not recommend or endorse any particular organizations, treatments, services, or programs.*

**Governmental Services**

**211 Hotline**
Phone: Dial “211”
211 is a free, confidential referral and information helpline and website that connects people of all ages and from all communities to the essential health and human services they need, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities – APD (Medwaiver)**
APD works in partnership with local communities and private providers to assist people who have developmental disabilities and their families by identifying their needs and providing funding for supports and services.

**APD Resource Directory**
[https://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/](https://resourcedirectory.apd.myflorida.com/)

**Health Insurance**
Information on types of health insurance that are available to vulnerable youth, who qualifies, and what coverage included.
Provided by Affordable Health Insurance

**CareerSource Florida**
CareerSource Florida is the statewide workforce policy and investment board. Partnering with the Department of Economic Opportunity, 24 local workforce development boards, and 100 career centers throughout Florida, CareerSource Florida connects businesses to the talented workforce and training needed to succeed and grow.
[https://careersourceflorida.com/about-us/](https://careersourceflorida.com/about-us/)

**The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)**
This state agency helps individuals and families with food assistance to maintain and promote good health. It also provides medical assistance to families and individuals to cover or assist with their medical needs. Contact DCF with any issues related to your application for Food Assistance and Medicaid
[www.myflorida.com/accessflorida](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida)
866-762-2237

**Medicaid**
Helps people to understand whether or not they qualify for Medicaid and how to apply
[https://www.affordablehealthinsurance.com/medicaid/](https://www.affordablehealthinsurance.com/medicaid/)
Provided by Affordable Health Insurance
Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
The PABSS Program helps people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and have a disability-related employment issue. PABSS advocates provide legal support, advocacy and information to assist beneficiaries to resolve employment-related concerns.
https://www.ssa.gov/work/protectionadvocacy.html
850-422-9071 or 800-342-0823

Social Security Administration (SSA)
Coordinate and/or conduct public outreach on work incentives in their local areas; Provide and/or coordinate and oversee training on Social Security's employment support programs for all personnel at local SSA offices; Handle sensitive or high-profile disability work-issuse cases.
https://www.ssa.gov/
800-772-1213

Ticket to Work Program
The Ticket to Work program is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, and become financially independent, all while they keep their Medicare or Medicaid.
https://choosework.ssa.gov/
866-968-7842

Vocational Rehabilitation
Vocational Rehabilitation is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers. WIPA services can be obtained through VR.
http://www.rehabworks.org/
800-451-4327

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)
The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program assists SSA’s beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work. Each WIPA Project has Community Work Incentive coordinators (CWICs) who will provide work incentives planning and assistance directly to beneficiaries with to assist them in their employment efforts.
http://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html

Workforce Florida
These agencies have one-stop centers which provide job search assistance including job listings, workshops on résumé writing and interviewing skills, and information about programs and other assistance for job seekers.
https://www.employflorida.com/

Non-Profit Organizations

Autism Society of America
Search Engine: Autism Source – local resources throughout US
https://source.autism-society.org/autismsource
https://www.autism-society.org/
800-328-8476

Autism Society of Florida
https://www.autismfl.org/
407-207-3388

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)
Services are free and include lectures, trainings, support groups, referrals, and some individual technical assistance.
http://www.florida-card.org/map.htm
Lighthouse for the Blind*
The mission of the Lighthouse for the Blind is to provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence, to educate professionals and to conduct research in related fields.
Broward: https://www.lhob.org/ - 954-463-4217
Miami: https://miamilighthouse.org/ - 305-856-2288
Palm Beach: https://lhpb.org/ - 561-586-5600

United Way
The mission of United Way of The United Way of Florida is a statewide association representing Florida’s 29 United Ways on legislative and administrative issues, training, and disaster preparation, response and recovery issues, among others.
https://www.uwof.org/

Vocational Training/Education/Support

ARC
Provides rehabilitation, medical, educational, and supportive services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.
http://www.arcflorida.org/

Center for Independent Living
Provides persons with disabilities with information about programs and services available in the community that can assist with independence and self-sufficiency
https://www.floridacils.org/

Easter Seals Vocational Services
Offers job training and employment; includes comprehensive vocational evaluations to determine job potential and readiness.
https://www.easterseals.com/florida/

Ernie Els Foundation
Committed to better understanding the aspirations of people with autism spectrum disorder and helping them to fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives.
https://www.elsforautism.org/
561-598-6200

Goodwill Industries
Provides community training and extended follow-up for individuals with developmental disabilities for job placement and onsite service.
https://www.goodwill.org/

Goodman Jewish Family Services – Joshua’s Path
Supports, educates, and empowers adults in the neurodiverse community as well as their families and caregivers by providing consultations, a comprehensive website for community relations, free educational seminars, and pathways to employment through social skills and work training.
https://www.jfsbroward.org/services/joshuas-path-boost-disability-services/

United Community Options
Adult Developmental Training/ Adult Vocational Supported Employment
Provides education and training in independent living skills to adults with disabilities. Services include physical, speech, and occupational therapy. Transportation is provided to and from the center. Provides vocational training and places clients in supported employment throughout the community.
http://www.unitedcommunityoptionssfl.org/
Employers/Volunteer Organizations

Rising Tide Carwash
A scalable social enterprise with the primary mission to employ adults with autism.
http://risingtidecarwash.com/
754-212-4765

ScentsAbility
ScentsAbility’s mission is to provide job training, employment and supported housing to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through learning about the candle-making/marketing business.
https://www.scentsability.org/
(954) 234-4405

Hands on Organization*
Search for volunteer opportunities
Broward: http://www.handsonbroward.org/ - 954-233-1300
Miami: https://www.handsonmiami.org/ - 305-504-4510
Palm Beach: https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org78704.jsp

Leisure and Recreation

Ability Online
Providing youth with disabilities, parents and professionals a secure online experience that removes social barriers and promotes independence, respect, acceptance and inclusion.
http://www.abilityonline.org/

Artists with Autism
Provides ARTrepreneur training through a Microenterprise Program Focus On Positive Abilities (FOPA) and offer retail sales experiences in a real art gallery with free exhibit space.
https://artistswithautism.com/
954-895-2786

Autism Theater Project
Strives to help youth, especially those with disabilities, learn how to express and communicate emotions and thoughts through artistic expression.
https://autismtheaterproject.org/

Best Buddies
Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501 organization. It consists of volunteers that create opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
https://www.bestbuddies.org/florida/

Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center*
Offers programs for children, teens and adults with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Programs include a fully inclusive Summer Camp, Winter Mini-Camp, Spring Mini-Camp and No-School Holidays.
https://www.alperjcc.org/
305.271.9000, x243

David Posnack Jewish Community Center *
Giborim U is a program for children, teens and adults with special needs. Programs include courses in fitness, the arts, sports, recreation, life skills and health and wellness.
https://www.dpjcc.org/giborim-u/giborim-u/
954-434-0499, x326
Friendship Circle
Program that offers social, recreational, and educational opportunities.
https://www.friendshipcircle.com/

Parks and Recreation*
Provides persons with intellectual and physical challenges equal access to community-based recreational, leisure, and cultural activities and to enhance their quality of life and inspire confidence, self-esteem and foster independence.
Broward: https://www.broward.org/Parks/Pages/SpecialPopulations.aspx - 954-357-8170
Palm Beach: https://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Pages/CP-Developmental-Disabilities.aspx - 561.966.7020

The Social Cog
https://www.thesocialcog.org/
The Social Cog is a South Florida based non-profit 501(c)3 organization that helps independently functioning individuals with autism and other developmental and social challenges to make and maintain friendships and form community, which serves as the foundation of a satisfying social and emotional life. They provide members the with an accepting peer group, individualized social coaching, and shared social and emotional experiences.

Special Olympics
Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
https://specialolympicsflorida.org/

The Friendship Journey
Programs are designed to deliver services and opportunities to children and young adults with special needs and their families while offering support and volunteer roles for young people looking to give back.
https://thefriendshipjourney.org/
hello@thefriendshipjourney.org

YMCA
Programs are committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility for people of all ages.
https://www.floridaymicas.org/locations/

Transportation
Para-transit Services*
In addition to fixed-route public transportation, local county (and in some cases city) governments provide para-transit service for individuals with disabilities. Services may include travel training on how to use public transportation or door-to-door transportation service.
Broward: https://www.broward.org/BCT/Pages/Paratransit.aspx
Miami-Dade: http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/special-transportation.asp
Palm Beach: http://discover.pbcgov.org/palmtran/Pages/default.aspx

Post-Secondary Transition Internet Resources

Project 10
Assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.
http://www.project10.info/

FYI Transition
Offers career advice to students who are getting ready to graduate.
https://fyitransition-students.org/
Partners in Transition
The Partners in Transition initiative was spearheaded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. to create a strategic plan that will guide policymakers and practitioners in systematically addressing the major challenges and critical issues regarding transition services in the State of Florida.
http://partnersintransition.fmhi.usf.edu/index.html

Advocacy

Autistic Self Advocacy Network
The Autistic Self Advocacy Network seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities.
http://autisticadvocacy.org/

Family Network on Disabilities – Florida (FND)
FND is a grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families that is family-centered and family-driven.
https://fndusa.org/

Residential Options/Financing

ARC Jacksonville Village
The ARC Jacksonville Village is an affordable, independent living neighborhood designed to maximize community inclusion for adults with intellectual and developmental differences.
https://www.thearcjacksonvillevillage.com/the-arc-jacksonville-village-jacksonville-fl

Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC)
Offers group homes, apartments and vocational training for adults with developmental disabilities. There is a culinary training program, providing training in all aspects of the food services industry and an environmental program where participants in the program gain skills in areas that provide them with skills that make them an asset to the employers.
http://jarcfl.org/
561-558-2550

Promise in Brevard
Designed to provide affordable, independent housing for individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities utilizing public and private partnerships to develop a model community.
https://promiseinbrevard.com/

Quest Village
Quest Village is a residential community designed for independent adults with developmental disabilities.
https://questinc.org/quest-village/

Villages at Noah’s Landings
Noah’s Ark of Central Florida advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities and provides or facilitates choices for meaningful employment, social and recreational opportunities, and affordable housing in an inclusive community.
https://noahsarkflorida.org/

Mortgage & Refinance Guide for People with Disabilities**
https://creditcritics.com/home-loans-disabled/
Includes information on rights, the home purchasing process, and programs that are specifically available to seniors, disabled individuals, and military veterans.
Home Remodeling and Modifications for People with Special Needs**
https://usinsuranceagents.com/home-updates-special-needs/
Resources available for determining what modifications need to be made and what needs to be done to get them completed.

*Contacts listed are for South Florida branches, but local agencies can be found throughout Florida and may also be affiliated with national organizations.

**Resources provided by https://www.abilitylabs.com/