

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. TAMPA BAY RESOURCE GUIDE

If you would like your special needs service or resource added to this list, please send an email to info@friendssupport.org.

ADVOCACY & SERVICES

- **Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities** - www.advocacycenter.org
- **Administration on Developmental Disabilities** – www.acf.dhh.gov
- **Council for Disability Rights** www.disabilityrights.org
- **Wrights Law** - www.wrightslaw.com
- **AAPD** – American Association of People with Disabilities <https://www.aapd.com/>
- **AAIDD** – American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <https://aidd.org>
- **Florida developmental Disabilities Council** – www.fddc.org

AUTISM

- **Autism Speaks** - www.autismspeaks.org 888-288-4762
- **Autism Society of America** www.autism-society.org
- **CARD Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF**- <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/>

The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF is a community-based project that provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

211 Association www.211.org (727)210-4233.

Free informational and referral services to connect with health and human service programs, food, housing, employment, health care and more.

American Disabilities Act National Network - <https://adata.org/national-network>

Provides information, guidance and training on how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to support the mission of the ADA to “assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.”

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Suncoast Region www.apd.myflorida.com
(Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco) (813)233-4302 1313 N. Tampa St. #515 Tampa FL 33602

Provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services. Provides private providers to assist people with special needs. Apply for MedWaiver. <https://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application/>

Bay Area Early Steps <https://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/early-steps> 813-558-1343
Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers, age birth to 36 months, who have or are at-risk for developmental disabilities or delays. Early intervention supports families and caregivers to increase their child's participation in daily activities and routines that are important to the family

Beds for Babies <http://healthystartpinellas.org/beds-for-babies/> (727)512-3740

Bright Expectations

Bright Expectations is Florida's site dedicated to helping our residents with unique abilities find support, resources, and inspiration. **Website:** <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/bright-expectations/index.html>; (850)245-4465

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/dhds/overview.html> Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) is an online source of state-level data on adults with disabilities. Users can access information on six functional disability types:

Children's Medical Services (727) 469-5800 www.floridahealth.gov

A collection of special programs for eligible children with special needs. We have a variety of services for expecting moms, newborn babies, infants and toddlers, school-aged children, adolescents and young adults. All of our services are provided by highly qualified physicians

Children's Medical Services - www.cms-kids.com Provides medical, primary care, therapeutic services and long term care for children with special health needs. Medicaid children under the age of 21yrs.

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash

9393 North Florida Avenue, Tampa Florida 33612 Phone Number: 813-558-5500

Contact for cash assistance, food stamps, medical assistance.

Family Café – www.familycafe.net 1-888-309-CAFÉ (2233) The Annual Family Café has brought Floridians with all types of disabilities together for three days of information, training, and networking each June. With a great range of individual breakout sessions, a packed Exhibit

Hall with dozens of vendors, and a series of special events including Keynote speakers and The Governors' Summit on Disabilities.

Family Health Line - <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/womens-health/pregnancy/family-health-line.html> 1-800-451-2229 The Family Health Line is a statewide free hotline offering counseling information and referrals about pregnancy, infant and toddler issues. Answering basic questions about pregnancy, breastfeeding, childbirth education and other pregnancy-related concerns.

FDLRS Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System - <http://www.fdlrs.org/> Provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities.

Florida Early Steps http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html (800) 218-0001. Provides information and referral services to families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Resource specialists provide answers and/or possible choices of services within your community, education on disability related services and provides advocacy roles for families. For more information or to make a referral to Early Steps.

Florida KidCare – <https://www.floridakidcare.org/> 1-888-540-5437
Insurance for kids 1-18yrs not eligible for Medicaid. No deductibles.

Head Start/Early Head Start www.healthystartcoalition.org (850)922-3936; Assists children with all types of disabilities including but not limited to those with developmental, hearing, language, and visual disabilities as well as emotional, medical, mental, and social needs. Enrolled children with special needs are provided with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and/or Individual Family Support Plans (IFSP).

Healty Start - <http://healthystartflorida.com/> **850-999-6200** Promotes healthy pregnancies, babies, and families by providing services and facilitating access to resources through community partnerships while advancing racial equity and cultural responsiveness.

Help Me Grow - <https://www.helpmegrowfl.org/> Promote healthy development for every child in our state. Help Me Grow is designed to address the need for early identification of developmental and/or behavioral concerns, and then to link children and their families to community-based developmental and behavioral services and supports.

Kinship Care Support for relative caregivers such as therapy, respite, tutoring, etc. (727)785-2762

Medicaid HCBS Waiver through iBudget Florida

https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/hcbs_waivers/ibudget.shtml

May allow you to get medical care and other services at home or in a facility in your community. Services are eligible for persons with developmental disabilities living at home. Service groups include Life Skills, Supplies and Equipment, Personal Supports, Residential Services, Transportation, Adult Dental, Therapeutic Supports/Wellness, and Support Coordination.

HCBS programs are sometimes called “waiver” programs because the state has gotten CMS to waive certain requirements of the Medicaid program. For example, a state must offer Medicaid services equally to all eligible people in the state regardless of their disabling condition. Under these rules a state couldn't run a Medicaid program that paid for prescriptions for physical conditions but not prescriptions for mental conditions. For information on how to apply for the iBudget Waiver contact the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (866)273-2273.

Medicaid <https://applyformedicaid.org/medicaid-application/>

Medicaid is the medical assistance program that provides access to health care for low-income families and individuals. Medicaid assists people with disabilities with the cost of nursing facility care and other medical and long term care expenses.

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental

Disabilities; <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/index.html> **800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)**

Provides information about unique abilities, including descriptions, risk factors, signs and symptoms; screenings and diagnosis; data and statistics; research and related articles

ANIMAL THERAPY

- Bakas Equestrian Center www.bakasridingcenter.com (813)246-3890
- Hold our Horses- Miniature Therapy Horses <http://www.holdourhorses.org/> (813) 767-6591
- Healing Horses One Child at a Time -www.healinghorsesonechildatatime.com
- 4 Paws for Ability Service Dogs www.4pawsforability.com

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Ability Medical Equipment (813)620-4475 www.ability.com
- Technology for Children www.taalliance.org
- Family Center on Technology and Disability www.fctd.info

- FFAST www.faast.org (866) 732-8873 - Florida Alliance for Assistive Services 4202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa FL 33620 Improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. Hands on assistive technology, demonstrations, and trainings. Assistive device lending programs at no charge.

ATTORNIES – SPECIAL NEEDS

- Hillborough Law offices of Laurie O’hall, P.A. ohalllaw.com (813)438-8503 Special Needs guardianship, estate planning.
- Pinellas Hitchcock Law Group www.hitchcocklawyer.com (727)223-3644 Special Needs guardianship, estate planning.
- Bay Area Legal Services (800)625-2257 www.bals.org Legal services pro bono.
- Community Law Program (727)582-7402 clp@lawprogram.org
- Advocare Trust, Inc. www.advocaretrust.org (727)791-3972 Provides life long guardianship and care for individuals whose parents have passed away.
- Affordable Legal Fees www.affordablelegalfees.com
- Guardian Trust - www.guardianpooledtrust.org/
- Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program – www.galtampa.org

BABY SITTING/SITTER/RESPIRE

Take A Break Tampa – www.takeabreatampa.com (813)370-0785

BEHAVIORAL THERAPY

- Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay www.bcotb.com
- Engage Behavioral Health www.engagebehavioralhealth.com (877)350-5005
- Family Learning Solutions www.familylearningsolution.com (863)293-1744
- ABA Therapy Associates – www.abatherapyassociates.com (800)981-5129
- Hot Docs - https://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/child_dev_neuro/hotdocs (813) 974-1048. Parent Training Classes for Parents of children birth through 5yrs that have difficulty with sleeping, eating, following directions, temper tantrums, calming down.

CAMPS/SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Camp Sites - www.verypecialcamps.com/Florida/Special-Needs

Camp Boggy Creek - www.boggycreek.org (352)483-4200; A year-round center for young people with chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

Camp Idlewild of Florida – www.campidlewild.org Land O'Lakes FL (813)

Dream Oaks Camp – www.foundationfordreams.org Bradenton, FL (941)746-5659

Quest's Camp Thunderbird - campthunderbird@questinc.org; (407)889-8088. Camp for persons with developmental disabilities in Apopka.

Camp Redbird – St. Petersburg www.stpeteparksrec.org/camp-redbird.html (727)893-7899 for ages 6yrs to adults Azalea Recreation Center.

Camp Sparks Parks & Recreations (813)744-5978

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/recreation-and-culture/kids/action-folder/register-for-camp-sparks>

CHILDCARE

A Brighter Community – United Way supported preschool and family support with speech , OT and PT. 1613 N. Marion St. Tampa, FL 33602 www.abrightercommunity.org (813)223-6830

Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County Inclusion www.elchc.org (813)837-7753

DAY PROGRAMS

A Better Life Adult Day Care – www.adultdaycaretampa.com (813)999-4945

Brandon Swim & Tennis www.facebook.com/myBSAC/ (813)689-0908

Guardian Haven Academy – 3801 Corporex Park Dr. Tampa FL 33619 www.guardianhaven.com

MacDonald Training Center - www.macdonaldcenter.org Tampa

Self Reliance – www.self-reliance.org (813)375-3965 8901 N. Armenia, Tampa FL 33604 Offers independent living skills, peer support.

Sunrise Community, Inc. St. Petersburg – www.sunrisegroup.org

Quest – www.questinc.org Offers opportunities to learn, live, work, and play.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FDLRS - Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System www.fdlrs.org

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education that provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities.

Hillsborough County Schools ESE <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Page/6212>

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department provides support and services to students with disabilities (SWD) who are eligible for special education services. Hillsborough County Public Schools serve over 30,000 students with disabilities, ages birth through 21

Pinellas County Schools www.pcsb.org/ese

ESE students are assigned a classroom teacher and case manager. Your child's classroom teacher can give you the name of your child's case manager if needed. The case manager can provide information regarding your child's IEP, services providers, and progress, as well as assist the IEP team in monitoring student progress.

DENTAL SERVICES

- ARC of Florida (813)369-9743 www.dental@arcflorida.org
- Children's Dentistry of Tampa – www.drgreg-childrensdentistry.com
- Dental Lifeline Network – dentallifeline.org/florida - (850)577-1466 For those who cannot afford dental services.
- Florida KidCare www.floridakidcare.org (888)540-5437 birth to 18yrs Medicaid.
- Dr. Frank Sierra DMD,PA 6323 Memorial Hwy, Tampa 33615 www.sierradmd.com
- The Humanitarian Foundation (614)933-0711 www.hfgrotto.org Covers the costs of dental treatment including hospital and anesthesia costs for all special needs children.
- FL Dental Association Guide to Dentists www.floridadental.org/public/find-a-dentist
- TLC Pediatric Dentistry 6532 Gunn Hwy, Tampa FL 33625 www.tlc4kidz.com (813)969-0999.

DISABILITY VACATION SERVICES

ADVENTURES BY JAMIE <https://adventuresbyjamie.com/> (239) 297-6691

Jamie looks forward to helping you plan the adventure of your dreams.

Buddy Cruise Inc. – www.buddycruise.org (877)-239-2789

Serves families and friends of individuals with Down syndrome and developmental delay. We are a 501c3 non profit charity. It is our purpose to provide education and promote public awareness by arranging and conducting special events, namely cruises. These events will be a forum for prominent educational speakers addressing a wide range of Down syndrome and disability related topics. We encourage self- advocate sessions. Buddy Cruise, ideally, will set sail each October, National Down syndrome awareness month, to honor those who are touched by Down syndrome nurses, social workers and other health care providers around the state.

DME – DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

- 180 Medical www.180medical.com
- ActivStyle <https://www.activstyle.com/>
- Wheelchair 4 Kids www.wheelchairs4kids.org (727)946-0963.

FITNESS/PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

Adaptive Sports - <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/residents/recreation-and-culture/sports-and-athletics/hc-adaptive-sports>; (813)744-5307. This program promotes health, independence and personal growth through sports for people with physical disabilities.

Buddy Baseball – www.buddybaseball.org (813)416-5742; A non-competitive recreational league serving the Tampa Bay community for boys and girls ages 8 to 22 with special needs. Each player is paired with a buddy to assist the player as needed on the field and in the dugout.

Buddy up for Life -<https://buddyupforlife.org/> A baseball program designed for the needs of Children & Adults that live with physical or mental disabilities.

Challenger Baseball - <https://clearwaterchallengerlittleleague.com/> (727)642-4268
A baseball program designed for the needs of Children & Adults that live with physical or mental disabilities, ages 4yrs to adult.

ME & U Abilities Academy - meanduabilitiesacademy.com – (727)643-8794.
Join Tina Tallman as she builds a community based children’s fitness academy to help all children become fit through music, dance, and laughter. www.meandusfitnessacademy.com.

Jewish Community Centers -Pinellas

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. DOWN SYNDROME/SPECIAL NEEDS www.friendssupport.org (813)245-2782
11612 Miss Chloe Court, Riverview, FL 33579

13191 Starkey Rd Ste 8 Largo, Florida 33773 | jewishpinellas.org Phone # 727-530-3223
We work to strengthen family life, promote the health, education and welfare of our membership and our community. Family counseling, job skills for developmentally delayed.

Jewish Community Centers www.jewishtampa.com (813)264-9000

Tampa JCCs and Federation on the Maureen and Douglas Cohn Campus 13009 Community Campus Drive Tampa, FL.

Special Olympics <https://www.specialolympicsflorida.org/> (352)243-9536

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults 8 years of age and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cost is free, need a doctor's clearance on physical exam, sometimes provided free of charge.

Tennis for Fun - <http://tennisforfun.org/contact/> (813)546-8008; A free tennis clinic for athletes of all ages that are intellectually handicapped, especially those with Down Syndrome, but other special needs athletes who qualify for Special Olympics are also welcome to join the program.

Top Soccer - brandontops@aol.com; (813)657-5271 A community-based training program for all athletes with intellectual, emotional, and or physical disabilities. The program strives to provide soccer opportunities (the opportunity of soccer) for players to develop at their own pace in a safe, fun, and supportive/inclusive environment.

We Rock the Spectrum – Kids Play Gym www.werockthespectrumtampa.com.

www.werockthespectrumclearwater.com. A full inclusion indoor play space for all kids! Open play, classes, birthday parties,

GENETICS

Integrated Genetics - <https://www.integratedgenetics.com/>

Labcorp offers a continuum of care in reproductive genetic testing from screening to diagnosis, and hereditary cancer testing services. Whether you are a patient or a healthcare provider, the broad reach of our specialty testing capabilities.

The USF Regional Genetics and Metabolism

<https://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/genetics/counseling> (813) 259-8772

2 Tampa General Circle, 5th Floor 5053B Tampa, FL 33606.

Established in 1977 to provide comprehensive medical management to individuals and families with a genetic condition. This includes an initial evaluation and examination, genetic testing as appropriate, genetic counseling and follow up as appropriate.

GROUP HOMES

Angels Unaware – www.angelsunaware.com has eight group homes servicing developmentally disabled of Tampa Bay.

PARC - <https://www.parc-fl.org/> PARC

Providing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities - maintains two Medicaid Waiver group homes and two Intermediate Care Facilities for young teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities:

Pinellas Life- Group Homes - <http://www.pinellaslife.com/group-homes/> Deirdre Cavener, MCP Founder and Owner of PinellasLife.com

ResCare/BrightSpring Health Services www.rescare.com

Provides trusted community living services that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities enjoy greater quality of life in their own home or in home-like environments.

New Horizons Group Home – 813-571-2690 www.newhorizonshome.org

109 E. Clay Ave. Brandon, FL 33510; Provides Group homes for adults with developmental disabilities.

Ridgeland Group Home, Inc. www.ridgelandgrouphome.com (813) 810-6257

Adult Day Training center in Brandon Florida. Ridgeland Group Home and its staff are dedicated people striving to provide clients the opportunity for a meaningful life through various supports needed to improve their quality of life. We hope to accomplish this by exposing them to various experiences and, education that would enable them to achieve individual goals.

Sunrise Community of Hillsborough County <http://www.sunrisegroup.org/> Phone: (813) 830-

7823; 2714 West Kirby Street Tampa, Florida 33614 hillsborough@sunrisegroup.org

<http://www.sunrisegroup.org>. Group homes; Respite; adult training programs; Behavioral Analysis Services; Personal Assistance services; day services; and transportation.

Quest Training and Group Home - questinc.org/residential-services (813) 423.7700
1404 Tech Blvd. Tampa, FL 33619 contact@questinc.org ; Quest provides a variety of residential living options for people with disabilities, including group homes, intermediate care facilities and transitional and support environments. Quest's vocational program provides individuals with disabilities in the Orlando and Tampa areas the opportunity to apply job skills and gain meaningful employment through the Adult Day Training (ADT) and the Supported Employment programs.

HEALTH

- Community Health Centers of Pinellas www.chpinellas.org
- Florida Department of Health Pinellas Pinellas.floridahealth.gov
- Florida Department of Health Hillsborough Hillsborough.floridahealth.gov
www.hillscountyhealth.org
- Kidcare www.floridakidcare.org
- The Kidz Club www.thekidzclub.com – daycare for medically fragile children.
- Maxim HealthCare Services Home Care www.maximhomecare.com
- Shriner's Hospital for Children www.shrinershq.org
- WIC Women, Infants, and Childrens Nutrition www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wic
- Down syndrome Research Foundation – www.dsrf.org
- March of Dimes – www.marchofdime.com

HOME HEALTH SERVICE

- Ace HomeCare Services (813)621-022 www.acehomecareflorida.com
- A Medicare certified Home Health Care agency
- Home Care Association of FL - <https://www.homecarefla.org/search/newsearch.asp>
- Nurse On Call Homecare - www.nurseoncallfl.com

INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

Noah's Ark - <https://noahsarkflorida.org/> (863) 687-0804 providing or facilitating choices of meaningful employment, recreational and social opportunities and affordable housing in an inclusive community of their choice.

One Kin Roof www.onekinroof.org - Offers an inclusive neighborhood that represents the diversity in our society. Our vision is a living and learning neighborhood that values inclusion,

belonging, and purpose for people of all backgrounds, abilities, and age groups. Imagine a neighborhood where everyone is supporting one another to live their best authentic life.

Quest Village – www.questinc.org/quest-village; 813.423.7700 Quest Village is the ideal place to foster independence with its single-bedroom/single-bathroom apartments, complete with a porch, WI-FI capabilities and all new appliances.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

IEP Advocate www.theiepadvocate.com (407)342-9836 Has the resourced and training to go into any IEP meeting or 504 Plan to help stand up for your child's rights and negotiate to meet their needs.

JOB TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT

School to work Transitions www.rehabworks.org

Artistas Café - <http://www.artistascafe.com/> (813) 251-2787

develop people with Autism's "Uniquability" so they can live, work and play in our inclusive communities. Artistas Café is a Pathway of Employment for students of Autism Shifts. We've created this Mobile cafe so that our students and others can integrate the Autistic Community with Tampa Bay and it's surrounding areas. Book us for an event and meet the Artistas at artistascafe.com/book

Vocational Rehabilitation Florida Department of Education 1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 801 Tampa, FL 33602 Phone: (813) 233-3600 Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) 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.

Goodwill Industries

727-523-1512/888-279-1988 The mission is accomplished through employment services, training programs and affordable housing. Headquartered in St. Petersburg, we provide services to people in 10 counties – Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk, Hernando, Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Levy and Highlands counties.

McDonalds Training MTC

(813) 870-1300 | Fax (813) 872-6010 5420 W. Cypress Street; Tampa, Florida 33607-1706 Primary areas of service include educational, vocational and residential supports for persons with disabilities. MTC day services includes vocational skills training and life enrichment

activities from computer lab and fine arts instruction to recreational outreaches for people with developmental disabilities.

The Arc Tampa Bay - 1501 N. Belcher Road, Suite 249 Clearwater, FL 33765 Phone: 727.799.3330 The Arc Tampa Bay has a long history of advocacy efforts in support of our mission. As a service provider for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 58 years, The Arc Tampa Bay has been a key affiliate member of The Arc of Florida.

Parent Support Center

(727) 523-1130 2196 Main Street, Suite L, Dunedin FL 34698; This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), is the Parent Training Information (PTI) center for the West Florida. Help to ensure that parents of children with the full range of disabilities have the training and information they need to prepare their children for not only school, but to be able to lead productive, independent lives to the fullest extent possible.

Self-Reliance Center for Independent Living www.self-reliance.org gmartoccio@self-reliance.org (813)375-3965; Advocacy, Peer Support & Mentoring, Independent Living Skills Training, Additional services: Durable Medical Equipment Program, Information & Referral, Transition Services

Service Source www.servicesource.org Provides job training and placement to individuals with disabilities & housing support programs. 2735 Whitney Rd. Clearwater, FL (727)538-7370

Gulf Coast Autism Association www.gulfcoastautism.org (727)786-4292

MENTAL HEALTH

Bailey Psychology Group <https://www.baileypsychologygroup.com/> (813)720-7411 Provides full individual and group therapy, assessment and support group services.

Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay - <https://bcotb.com/> (813) 440-4933 Our Board Certified Behavior Analysts have more than 20 combined years of experience working with children with autism as well as a variety of developmental disabilities.

Louis dela Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at USF CARD

<https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/fmhi/> (813)974-2295. Provides information and consultation to those diagnosed with autism or related disabilities.

MONEY/SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

ABLE United - Website: <http://www.ableunited.com/> Phone Number: 1-888-524-ABLE (2253)
The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allows individuals with unique abilities and their family and friends to save for future expenses, like Roth IRA and 529 college savings plans, while maintaining government benefits.

Hunter Pflueger – Financial Advisor Edward Jones hunter.pflueger@edwardjones.com
(813)661-7125.

RETREATS & VACATIONS

- Deliver the Dream – www.deliverthedream.org Free family retreats for all disabilities.
- Sunshine Foundation Dream Villages Florida sunshinefoundation.org

PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES

Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation – After School and Summer Programs
Ages 5-22yrs www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/departments/parks

Largo Parks and Recreation - <http://www.largo.com/department/index.php?structureid=22>
Highland Recreation Complex Manager: Chip Potts 400 Highland Ave Largo, Florida
33770 Phone # 727-518-3016

SPECIAL NEEDS AGENCIES

American Association of People with Disabilities - aapd.com As a national cross-disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the over 60 million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation.

CARD Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/>
The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at USF is a community-based project that provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities.

Cerebral Palsy Guide <https://www.cerebralpalsyguide.com>

Family Network on Disabilities www.fndfl.org (727)523-1130

Family Care Council – www.fccflorida.org

Florida's Voice on Developmental Disabilities (954) 975-5159 www.Floridasvoice.org

A statewide independent advocacy and networking non-profit organization comprised of families and friends of persons with developmental disabilities. Our organization advocates a full array of services in the most cost effective manner possible - community programs, family home care, group homes, and larger centers (over six beds) for only the most severely developmentally disabled. Cost: \$25 family membership fee; \$15 for those with financial hardships.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Down Syndrome/Special Needs West Fl. www.friendssupport.org (813)245-2782. We provide year-round programming, family support meetings, community education, and fun social activities for our special needs community.

Easter Seals – <https://www.easterseals.com/florida/>

Offers Childcare, Early Intervention, Child development centers, Speech, PT, OT, Adult Day Services to all disabilities ages birth to school age. Cost: Florida child scholarships; private tuition; Medicaid/Medicare.

GiGi's Playhouse www.gigisplayhouse.org/Tampa 813-544-8000

Down syndrome achievement center offers free OT, Reading, Math Tutoring, Cooking, Dance, & Music programs. 3611 W. Hillsborough Ave. Ste. 200 Tampa, FL 33614

Global Down Syndrome Foundation - <https://www.globaldownsyndrome.org/> public non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to significantly improving the lives of people with Down syndrome through Research, Medical Care, Education and Advocacy.

HUG – Help Us Gather – www.helpusgather.org (727)489-5885 Provides a community calendar of events for people with special needs, hosts gatherings and outings, organizes HUG Ambassadors and volunteers to excite others about the beauty of inclusion, and represents a positive image for people with disabilities at community events.

National Down Syndrome Adoption Network – www.ndsan.org Helps you navigate the adoption process, from how to get started, to finalizing your adoption.

National Down Syndrome Congress – www.ndscenter.org

Provides individuals, families, and health care providers information and support about Down syndrome, as well as advocating with and on behalf of individuals with Down syndrome

National Down Syndrome Society – www.ndss.org

Offers support to people with Down syndrome, educates the general public, is the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down Syndrome.

VSA Arts of Florida - <http://www.vsaf.org> - Brings the arts into the lives of people with disabilities.

SPEECH/VISION

- Autism Early Intervention Clinics www.autismclinics.com
- National Ataxia Foundation www.ataxia.org
- Spec 4 Us www.specs4us.com
- Bright Eyes Family Vision – www.brighteyestampa.com (813)358-0400
- Baby Signs by Lisa Fields – Sign language workshops www.lisafieldschildcare.weebly.com/
- All About Kids Therapy birth to 3yrs Speech therapy www.allaboutkidstherapy.com (813)461-7432
- Cued Speech www.cuedspeech.usf.edu

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's/Down Syndrome Family Advocate ntgfamilyadvocate@gmail.com (727)543-4174
Jadene S. Ransdell - Down syndrome/Alzheimer's Family Advocate
<mailto:ntgfamilyadvocate@gmail.com>

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. – Down Syndrome/Special needs support group meetings and potlucks;
www.friendssupport.org (813)245-2782.

SUPPORT COORDINATORS

- **All About you Support Services** - www.aboutyousupports.com
- **Support Coordinator** – www.supportcoordinators.com All on the Florida Medicaid waiver program receives a Support Coordinator to assist with services available on the waiver.

THERAPY SERVICES

- Pediatric Therapy Services www.ptsbeyourbest.com PT, OT, Speech & Feeding Therapy
- Superior Therapy Services www.superiortherapyservices.com

TRANSPORTATION

FL Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 222.dot.state.fl.us/ctd

Sunshine Line Transportation 813-272-7272

Provides door-to-door transportation and bus passes for elderly, low-income, and disabled persons who do not have or cannot afford their own transportation. Transportation is provided primarily to medical appointments and Aging Services day care and nutrition sites, but nonmedical trips are provided on a space-available basis. Sunshine Line does not provide Medicaid transportation

PSTA - 3201 Scherer Drive St. Petersburg, FL 33716

<https://www.psta.net/programs/accessibility/>

Phone: 727-540-1800 InfoLine: 727-540-1900 Email: cserv@psta.net

Agencies Federal Transportation Administration 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 18th floor, Tampa, FL 33602. Call: 813-272-5940 ext 317. Email: ogilviem@plancom.org

TSA - 855-787-2227 The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has a toll free helpline designed to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions, prior to getting to the airport. It is available Monday through Friday 9am–9pm EST, excluding federal holidays, with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint.

SCHOOLS/EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

AAA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION -

Website: <http://www.aaascholarships.org/schools/Florida/> Phone: 1-888-707-2465

The AAA Scholarship Foundation helps administer two scholarship programs in Florida. The first is an income based scholarship and the second is the **Gardiner Scholarship** (formerly known as the Personal Learning Scholarship Account or PLSA Scholarship). The AAA Scholarship Foundation is an approved scholarship funding organization for the State of Florida.

The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities - Website: <http://fcsua.org/> Phone Number: **407-823-5225**. provides support to students, families and institutions of higher education so that students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences that lead to employment opportunities.

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services – www.fldoe.org

Career Education for students with special needs – www.myfloridaeducation.com

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Website: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/> Phone Number: **1-800-447-1636**. Florida provides a variety of school choice options, including four scholarship programs. These programs allow parents choice among public and private schools.

Step Up For Students <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/> Phone: 1-877-735-7837. Helps administer two scholarship opportunities for Florida school children: the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for low-income families and the Gardiner Scholarship for children with certain special needs. These scholarships are offered as options in the same way that public education is offering an expanding array of choices. Step Up for Students is an approved scholarship funding organization for the state of Florida.

Parent Involvement – Exceptional Education in Florida [HTTP://FORPARENTS.FLORIDA-ESE.ORG/INDEX.ASPx](http://FORPARENTS.FLORIDA-ESE.ORG/INDEX.ASPx)

Florida Department of Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder

[HTTP://WWW.FLDOE.ORG/ACADEMICS/EXCEPTIONAL-STUDENT-EDU/ESE-ELIGIBILITY/AUTISM-SPECTRUM-DISORDER-ASD.STML](http://WWW.FLDOE.ORG/ACADEMICS/EXCEPTIONAL-STUDENT-EDU/ESE-ELIGIBILITY/AUTISM-SPECTRUM-DISORDER-ASD.STML) Florida Autism

Florida Health: Down Syndrome Resources <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/bright-expectations/conditions/down-syndrome.html>

Pinellas Schools

Pinellas County - The ESE Resource Connection is a resource that provides families and persons with disabilities specific resource information, community events and opportunities. This webpage is located on the Pinellas County School Exceptional Student Education site at <http://www.pcsb.org/Page/16045>.

Center Academy - <https://centeracademy.com/> 727-541-5716

Provides students with a learning environment that facilitates the development of self-confidence, motivation, and academic skills, and gives students the opportunity to achieve success in life.

Morning Star School - <http://morningstarschool.org/>

A K-12th grade school where students grow, learn, and develop their potential academically, socially, and spiritually.

Paul B. Stephens School - <https://www.pcsb.org/stephens> (727)725-7982 Clearwater.

Tampa Schools

Focus Academy info@focusacademytampa.org (813) 433-5558 The curriculum at Focus Academy is structured with dual purposes: academic achievement and social success. Many students are scholastically capable but are hindered by struggles in dealing with peers
Morning Star Academy – A mission of the Catholic Diocese. Children with special needs who have learning disabilities and developmental delays. 210 E Linebaugh Ave, Tampa, FL 33612; Phone: (813) 935-0232 or 4661 80th Ave. North, Pinellas Park FL 33781 (727)544-6036

Livingstone Academy 813-661-4200 - is an independent, non-profit, Private School that specializes in serving the unique needs of children with learning disabilities. Livingstone Academy serves students in grades 1-8; providing a continuum of services based on the individual requirements of each student. (Our Seffner campus serves students in grades 1st through 12th) We provide a positive learning environment for students with Specific Learning Disabilities, Autism, Asperger's, Down Syndrome, Speech and Language disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Emotional/Social disorders and Cognitive and/or Developmental delays. (813)404-1598; www.livingstoneschools.org.

Pepin Academy – 813-236-1755 Serves over 700 students between 3rd and 12th grade, and young adults 18 to 22 with specific learning disabilities. Approximately 80% of our students graduate with a standard high school diploma, and we provide individualized instruction, along with all the services your child needs to succeed and the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. 3916 East Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610
Special Needs School List - For a list of special needs schools in your area log onto: <http://www.privateschoolreview.com/florida/special-education-private-schools>.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Best Buddies

Tampa Office 200 South Hoover Boulevard, Suite 191 Tampa, FL 33609
florida@bestbuddies.org; Phone: 813.254.9025; Services One to one friendships with a nondisabled peer for one year; activities for pairs and groups; Programs for middle, high school, college, citizens, and jobs.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES

Idlewild Baptist Church – www.idlewild.org/specialneeds (813)264-8773

Van Dyke Church Special Needs Ministry - 17030 Lakeshore Rd., Lutz, FL 33558.
www.vandyke.org jatkinson@tampabay.rr.com. Embrace Special Needs Respite Care
gharmon@vandyke.org 813-968-3983 x 156.