Support Services

Updated 05/19/2020

FDLRS Gulfcoast serves Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas counties. For more updates, go to www.fdlrsgulfcoast.org or call (727)793-2723.

2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares
Phone crisis intervention & info/referral to local health/human services
Call 211 or go to website: www.211tampabay.org

A.F.I.R.E.
Support services for adults with developmental disabilities.
Pinellas: (727) 638-4916
e-mail: afire4dd@gmail.com
website: www.afirepinellas.org
Pasco: (727)849-8982
website: www.afirepasco.com

ARC Nature Coast
Comprehensive services to support independence-residential, skill training, employment, transportation.
Call (352)544-2322, ext. 111
website: www.thearc-naturecoast.org

Arts4All Florida (formerly VSA Florida)
Goal to create a world in which the arts are universally accessible.
Art/music classes, award/recognition programs, many other events
Call Patricia Fosnaught (813)610-4096
e-mail: pr.fosnaught@verizon.net
website: https://arts4allflorida.org

Center for Independent Living of North Central FL
Assists people of all ages with disabilities in achieving and maintaining an independent lifestyle. Serving Hernando county.
Call (352)376-7474/Video (352)240-3079
website: www.cilncf.org

Center for Parent Information & Resources
Information & products created for those serving families of children with disabilities.
Call (973) 642-8100
website: www.parentcenterhub.org

Clothes to Kids
Provides new and quality used clothing to low-income/in-crisis, school-age children in Pinellas County, free of charge.
Call (727)441-5050
Clearwater Store at 1059 N. Hercules Ave.
St. Petersburg Store at 2168 34th St. South
website: www.clothestokids.org

Deaf Literacy Center
Provides basic literacy instruction, life skills training, info to deaf individuals and families. Meets at various public libraries throughout Pinellas County.
Call Rosa Rodriguez (727)724-1525 x4120 Voice, (727)474-1914 Video
e-mail: rodriguez@pplc.us
website: www.pplc.us/dlc

Disability Achievement Center
Assists people of all ages with disabilities in achieving and maintaining an independent lifestyle. Serving Pasco/Pinellas counties.
Call (727)539-7550
website: www.myDACIL.org

Disability Rights Florida
Information, referrals, self-advocacy support, technical help, and more.
Call (800)342-0823 Voice/(800)346-4127 TDD
website: www.disabilityrightsflorida.org

Adaptive Toy Lending Library
Collections include adapted toys, capability switches, activity center, and other special devices for children with disabilities.
Call Palm Harbor Library at (727)784-3332

Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Supports persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in all aspects of community life.
Hernando: (407)245-0440
Pasco, Pinellas: (800)615-8720
website: https://apd.myflorida.com

ARC Tampa Bay
Day programs, residential, employment services for persons with intellectual/developmental challenges
Call (727)799-3330
website: www.thearc.tb.org

Brain Injury Association of Florida
Information, support, advocacy for families
Call (800) 992-3442
website: www.biaf.org

CARD (The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities.
Hernando: (800)9-AUTISM
website: www.card.usf.fhmi.usf.edu
Pasco, Pinellas: (800)333-4530
website: www.card-usf.fhmi.usf.edu

CHADD
Resources, training, support for children/adults with ADHD
Call (866)200-8098
website: www.chadd.org

Children’s Medical Services
Provides health care for children up to age 21 with special needs
Call (866)799-5321
website: www.wellcare.com/en/Florida/Members/Medicaid-Plans/CMS

CPALMS
An online toolbox of information, resources, and interactive tools to help implement the Florida teaching standards.
website: www.cpalms.org

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Tampa Bay
Weekly support groups throughout the Tampa Bay area
Call (727)410-1569
e-mail: info@dbstatampabay.org
website: www.dbstatampabay.org

Directions for Living
Consultation, training, prevention services-including behavioral and mental health services-for adults and children.
Call (727)524-4464
website: www.directionsforsliving.org

Deaf Literacy Center
Provides basic literacy instruction, life skills training, info to deaf individuals and families. Meets at various public libraries throughout Pinellas County.
Call Rosa Rodriguez (727)724-1525 x4120 Voice, (727)474-1914 Video
e-mail: rodriguez@pplc.us
website: www.pplc.us/dlc

Disability Achievement Center
Assists people of all ages with disabilities in achieving and maintaining an independent lifestyle. Serving Pasco/Pinellas counties.
Call (727)539-7550
website: www.myDACIL.org

Disability Rights Florida
Information, referrals, self-advocacy support, technical help, and more.
Call (800)342-0823 Voice/(800)346-4127 TDD
website: www.disabilityrightsflorida.org
Early Learning Coalition
Early childhood developmental screening, child care resource & referral, administrator VPK
Pasco/Hernando (866)797-9444
email: coalition@phelc.org
website: www.phelc.org
Pinellas (855)224-3527
website: www.elcpinellas.net

Early Steps Playtimes
Playgroup for children ages 1 to 6 with special needs.
Meets several times monthly at various locations in Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas counties.
Check the calendar of events on the Early Steps Facebook page.
To reserve a space, call Paula Burns (727)767-6705 or email paula.burns@jhmi.edu

Early Steps Program-West Central Florida
Early intervention for children age 0-36 mo. with significant delays
Serving those who live in Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas counties.
Call (727)767-4403
email: achearysteps@jhmi.edu
website: www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/services/west-central-early-steps

Epilepsy Services Foundation
Counseling, education, support services for seizure disorders.
Call (813)374-8907
website: www.epilepsysf.org

Family Care Council
Advocate, educate & empower individuals w/developmental disabilities
Hernando (Area 13): Meets 2nd Monday of every month at 10am
at APD, 1601 W. Gulf Atlantic Hwy, Wildwood
Call Karen Huscher (800)470-8101
Pasco, Pinellas (Suncoast West): Meets 4th Fri. every other month at 10am
at Disability Achievement Center, 12552 Belcher Rd., Largo
Call Paula James (800)470-8101
website: www.fccflorida.org

Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG)
Supports educationally appropriate programs for gifted students through exchanging information, research, and more.
website: www.flagifted.org

Florida Department of Education-ESE
Administers programs for students with disabilities and who are gifted.
Call (850)245-0475
website: www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/

Florida Division of Blind Services
Education, supports, early intervention, transition to work
Call (800)757-7190 Hillsborough, Pinellas
Call (863)499-2385 Hernando, Pasco
website: http://dbs.myflorida.com/

Florida Gifted Network
A group of parents, educators, and community members providing resources, networking, and advocacy.
website: www.florigiftednetwork.org

Florida Kidcare
State health/dental insurance program for children birth to age 18.
Call (888)340-5437 Voice, (800)955-8771 TTY
website: www.floridakidcare.org

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)
Administers specialized telecommunications equipment distribution program for citizens of Florida who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, and speech disabled.
Call (800)222-3448 Voice, (888)447-5620 TTY, (850)270-2641 Video
website: www.FTRI.org

Head Start/Early Head Start
Free program for infants to age 5. Low income requirements.
Hernando: (888)227-0010
website: www.midfloridaheadstart.com
Pasco: (813)794-2730
website: www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ecp
Pinellas: (727)547-5979
website: www.lsfnet.org

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
For those that may need assistance regarding the school system
Hernando: (352)797-7070, ext. 230
Call (727)767-4403
website: www.hernandoschools.org/Page/3635
email: achearlysteps@jhmi.edu

FAASt (Florida’s Assistive Technology Program)
Helps those with disabilities access to assistive services and technology
Call (844)353-2278 Voice/(877)506-2723 TTY
email: info@faastinc.org
website: www.faast.org

Family Center on Deafness
Programs/referrals for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Call (727)501-2323/ Voice or (727)235-6285/Video
website: www.fcdpinellas.org

Family Network on Disabilities
Support, education, information, and advocacy statewide
Call (727)523-1130
website: www.fndusa.org

Florida Center for Inclusive Communities
Training, technical assistance, research, and activities focused on supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.
Call (866)818-4797
website: www.flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu

FL Developmental Disabilities Council
Promotes meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities. Resources and publications for all ages.
Call (800)580-7801 or (888)488-8633 TDD
website: www.fddc.org

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services
Provides free in-home PT/OT to children who do not have easy access to services and meet eligibility requirements.
Call (800)523-1673
website: www.floridaelks.org

Florida Health Dept.
Serving your needs from controlling infectious diseases to safe drinking water to disaster preparedness and more
Hernando: (352)540-6800
website: www.hernando.floridahealth.gov
Pasco: (727)769-0300
website: www.pasco.floridahealth.gov
Pinellas: (727)824-6900
website: www.pinellas.floridahealth.gov

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
Events, resources, networking meetings for those impacted by down syndrome.
Call (813)245-2782
website: www.friendsdownsyndrometampa.com

Hernando County Community Alliance
Works with community-based organizations and agencies to ensure nurturing of the family environment.
website: www.hccalliance.org
**Hernando County Schools**
Public school education for ESE (including gifted) ages 3 to 21
Call (352)797-7022  ESE Dept.
website: www.hernandoschools.org

**HOSPICE **
Families brought together by hydrocephalus and related conditions.
Call Paula Burns (727)851-6705
email: info@hugsflorida.org
website: https://gothydro.org/

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
On-line support and penpals, many resources
Call (727)344-2873
website: www.jdrf.org/tampabay/

**Kinship Care**
Provides support to relative caregivers by helping families connect to necessary services. Support groups and family fun activities.
Call (888)920-9761
website: www.childrenshomenetwork.org/kinship
Pasco support groups (813)860-9373
Pinellas support groups (727)785-2762, ext. 238

**Lions Club**
Provides eye exams and glasses to those who are visually impaired and cannot afford the service.
Call (727)893-7152  Lions Sight Center, St. Petersburg

**McKay Scholarship**
Scholarships for students with disabilities to attend participating private schools or public schools.
Hernando: (352)797-7000, x448
Pasco: (727)774-2586
Pinellas: (727)588-5090
website: www.floridaschoolchoice.org

**National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**
Education and support group meetings for persons with mental illness and their family and friends
Hernando: (352)684-0004
website: www.fnamin hernando.org
Pasco: (727)992-9653
website: www.namiPasco.org
Pinellas: (727)826-0807
website: www.nami-pinellas.org

**PARC**
Early intervention, therapy, residential, respite, and employment services for children and adults with developmental disabilities
Call (727)345-9111
website: www.parc-fl.org

**PEACE 4 Tarpon**
Working to create a peaceful and thriving Tarpon Springs through becoming a trauma informed community.
email: robinlsaenger@hotmail.com
website: www.peace4tarpon.org

**Pinellas County Schools-Homework Helpline**
Free homework help for students grades 1 through 12. Available Mon-Thurs from 5 to 8pm.
Call (727)547-7223
website: www.pcsb.org/Page/317

**Pinellas Support Team**
Provides services to families in Pinellas County with children in PreK through high school who are experiencing difficulties at school due to behavioral or emotional issues.
Call (727)785-2762, ext. 224
email: ageler@childrenshomenetwork.org
website: www.childrenshomenetwork/pinellas-support-team

**Hospice**
Hospice/palliative care, counseling, and caregiver support.
Hernando-HPH Hospice  (866)940-0862
website: www.chaptershealth.org
Pasco-Gulfside Hospice  (800)561-4883
website: www.gulfside.org
Pinellas Suncoast Hospice  (727)467-7423
website: www.suncoasthospice.org

**International Dyslexia Association**
Information about dyslexia for individuals, parents, educators
email: info.fl@dyslexiaida.org
website: www.dyslexiaida.org
Call (727)344-2873

**Kids and Canines**
Provides trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities. Works with at-risk middle schoolers to care for/train dogs.
Call (813)598-5405
website: www.kidsandcanines.org

**Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
Serving individuals from birth through adult
Hernando: (352)754-1132
Pasco: (727)815-0303
website: www.lhpfl.org

**Little People of America (Orlando/Tampa)**
Support and information for people with dwarfism and their families.
Call National # (888)LPA-2001
email: lpacentralflorida13@gmail.com
website: www.lpacentralflorida.org
Hernando: (352)797-7000, x448
Pasco: (727)588-5090
Pinellas: (727)544-4433
website: www.lpacentralflorida.org

**Mended Little Hearts of St. Petersburg, Florida**
Support program for parents of children with heart defects & disease
Call (727)492-3390
website: www.floridaschoolchoice.org

**National Association for the Mentally Ill**
Information and advocacy for families and K-12 educators.
Call (202)785-4268
website: www.nagc.org

**National Association for Gifted Children**
Information and advocacy for families and K-12 educators.
Hernando: (352)684-0004
website: www.nagc.org/Hernando
Pasco: (727)992-9653
website: www.nagc.org/Pasco
Pinellas: (727)826-0807
website: www.nagc.org/Pinellas

**Operation PAR**
Addiction and mental health services—prevention, treatment, research for children, adults, and their families.
Call (888)727-6398  (help available 24/7)
website: www.operationpar.org

**Pinellas County Schools**
Public school education for ESE ages 3 to 21
Call (727)774-2165  ESE Dept.
website: www.parc-fl.org

**Pinellas County Schools-Homework Helpline**
Free homework help for students grades 1 through 12. Available Mon-Thurs from 5 to 8pm.
Call (727)547-7223
website: www.pcsb.org/Page/317

**Pinellas Interagency Networking Council for Students**
Quarterly meetings held with those interested in assisting Pinellas County transitioning youth with disabilities.
website: www.pincs.org

**Project 10**
Resources related to the transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education/employment.
website: www.project10.info
Public Transportation
Discounted/accessible buses, plus disability assisted transportation
The Bus-Hernando County Transit  (352)754-4444
website: www.hernandocounty.us/thebus
Pasco County Public Transportation-PCPT  (727)834-3322
website: www.pascocounty.net/243/Public-TransportationPCPT
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority-PSTA  (727)540-1900
website: www.psta.net

Ready for Life Beyond Foster Care
Serves youth in Pinellas County ages 15 - 25 years old that are in foster care or have already transitioned out and are on their own.
2300 Tall Pines Dr., Suite 100, Largo
Call (727)954-3389
e-mail: info@readyforlifepinellas.org
website: www.readyforlifepinellas.org

Service Source
Vocational evaluation and training, benefits planning, housing program, and opportunities for self-employment for individuals with disabilities.
Call (727)538-7370
website: www.servicesource.org

Special Ed Connection
A web-based resource that addresses legal/student rights,IEPs, and much more. Sign up by contacting your local FDLRS.
Hernando/Pasco:  (727)774-2618
Pinellas: (727)793-2723, x2043

Special Olympics Florida
Year round sports training and competition for ages 8 and older with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Some areas have a Young Athletes program for children ages 2 to 7 years.
Hernando: (352)556-4884
Pasco:  (727)492-8413 or (813)299-4433
Pinellas: (407)913-9728
website: www.specialolympicsflorida.org

Suncoast Center Inc.
Emotional wellness, trauma services, child advocacy for individuals and families throughout Pinellas County.
Call (727)388-1220
website: www.suncoastcenter.org

Tourette's Syndrome Support
Tampa Bay Area-Adults:
Contact Samantha Lubben at (727)226-0787 or sam0519@gmail.com
Tampa Bay Area:
Contact Colleen Beaudoin at (813)833-8330 or support.pasco@tsa-fl.org
website: www.tsas-fl.org

Williams Syndrome Association-Sunshine Region
Call (754)234-3409
e-mail: apena@williams-syndrome.org
website: www.williams-syndrome.org

SEDNET
Assisting students with/at risk of emotional/behavioral challenges.
Hernando: Amy DeFilippis (352)797-7022, x245
e-mail: defilippis_a@hcsb.k12.fl.us
Pasco, Pinellas: Katerina Rousses (727)669-1220, x2024
e-mail: roussosk@pcsb.org
website: www.sednetfl.info

Special Needs Shelter
For those that may need assistance evacuating, electricity for life supporting medical equipment, oxygen therapy, etc. Register every year.
Hernando: (352)754-4083
website: www.hernandocounty.us/departments/emergency-management
Pasco:  (727)847-8137, ext. 8582
website: www.pascocountyfl.net/3735/special-needs
Pinellas: (727)464-3800
website: www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm

Tourette Syndrome Support

United Cerebral Palsy of Tampa Bay
Assists families and individuals with any disability to achieve their full potential. Therapies, doula program, supported employment, respite.
Call (813)239-1179
website: www.ucptampa.org

Vocational Rehabilitation
Assists students with disabilities to prepare for obtaining and maintaining employment after leaving high school.
Call (352)610-5212 Brooksville Office
Call (352)834-6021 Dade City Office
Call (727)518-3454 Largo Office
Call (727)484-1430 New Port Richey Office
Call (352)200-3057 Spring Hill Office
Call (727)217-7930 or (727)552-1589 St. Petersbug Offices
website: www.rehabworks.org

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and State General Revenue funds.