

Florida Disability Websites

Note: For websites related to developmental disabilities, see Attachment 7 for the Participant's Handbook.

Abilities of Florida

www.ourpeoplework.org

Abilities of Florida is one of five not-for-profit organizations in the U.S. with the same mission - to provide individuals with disabilities an exceptional service delivery experience through innovative and valued employment, training, rehabilitation and support services.

Able Trust

www.abletrust.org

The Able Trust supports individuals and non-profit vocational rehabilitation programs throughout Florida with fund-raising, grant making and public awareness of disability issues. The Able Trust has been designated by Governor's Executive Order as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities. The Trust is responsible for expanding its role to increase the employment of Floridians with disabilities, promoting awareness of their abilities, serving as liaison to the Office of Disability Employment Policy and recommending policies to the Governor.

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP)

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/index.html>

The mission of the BSCIP is to provide all eligible residents who sustain a moderate-to-severe traumatic brain and/or spinal cord injury the opportunity to obtain the necessary services enabling them to remain in or return to their communities.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

<http://floridacils.org/map-floridas-centers-independent-living>

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are private, nonprofit corporations that provide services to maximize the independence of individuals with disabilities and the accessibility of the communities they live in. The Florida network of 17 CILs serves persons of all ages with all types of disabilities. Every Florida county is served by this network. CILs provide core services, including advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, and peer counseling. CILs may also provide services such as housing referral and adaptation, personal assistance referral, or legal aid.

Clearinghouse on Disability Information

<http://fldisabilityinfo.com> (Note: this is the same website as the Governor's Commission on Disabilities. Call the number below to get resource information.)

The Clearinghouse operates a statewide toll-free information and referral system for all disability related services, programs, assistance, and resources. The Clearinghouse's information and referral service connects people with disabilities and advocates of people with disabilities to the resources they need. To contact the Clearinghouse, call 1-877-232-4968.

Disability Navigator

http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce/dis_Nav.html

The Disability Program Navigator (DPN) initiative currently operates in 15 of the 24 workforce regions in the state. The DPN initiative has increased the awareness among workforce professionals, employers, and community partners of the untapped potential of persons with disabilities. DPNs have also provided staff training and development on programs and technology to assist persons with disabilities. General information on the program and a list of state and local contacts may be found at this Web site:

Disability Rights Florida

<http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

Disability Rights Florida was formerly known as The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities and is the designated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities in Florida. It provides information & referral, self-advocacy support, advocacy services, dispute resolution representation, systemic advocacy, facility and program monitoring, community education and outreach. It also educates policy makers about the needs of people with disabilities in areas such as abuse/neglect, health care, community resources, education, employment, housing, transportation and access to voting.

Division of Blind Services DOE

<http://dbs.myflorida.com/>

The mission of the Division of Blind Services is to ensure blind and visually impaired Floridians have the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success. The Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library administers a free library program of Braille and recorded materials for eligible readers.

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology, Inc. (FAAST)

FAAST.org

FAAST provides a supportive partnership between Florida business and government to provide assistive technology products and services which will enable persons with disabilities to participate in independent living, education, work and recreation from birth to death.

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

<http://fldisabilityinfo.com/>

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities was designed, by Executive Order, to be a policy advising body, collecting, analyzing, advocating, and advising on issues involving persons with disabilities. The Commission receives input from various sources including the public as well as universities, state agencies, and non-profit organizations. The Commission publishes an annual report, July 1st, to the Governor with recommendations to remove barriers and improve services to persons with disabilities. To see the Governor's Commission on Disabilities 2010 Report, go to <http://fldisabilityinfo.com/OurMission.aspx>.

Florida Council for Independent Living

<http://www.flailc.org/>

The Florida Council for Independent Living is a federally mandated body responsible for the development of the State Independent Living plan with both the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Blind Services. Seventeen consumer-controlled Centers for Independent Living receive federal and state funds to provide information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling and individual and systems advocacy at the local level.

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association

<http://www.fdoa.org/>

People with disabilities face even greater obstacles than most. The Florida Disabled Outdoors Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is working to ensure people with disabilities have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Since 1990, the FDOA has promoted accessible recreation to persons with disabilities as well as the general public through special events, newsletters and community education. FDOA has also assisted in compliance of the Americans with Disabilities Act and worked closely with many state, local and private organizations to develop, enhance and/or support recreation opportunities for the disabled across Florida and other states.

Florida Division of Emergency Management

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

This site helps people with disabilities and their caregivers to plan for disasters. The Florida Division of Emergency Management especially encourages caregivers of persons with disabilities/special needs to carefully consider a disaster plan when preparing the ones you watch over for a disaster situation.

Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

<http://www.rehabworks.org/>

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that works with people who have physical or mental disabilities to prepare for, gain or retain employment. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers. In addition to the general customer employment program, VR has additional specific programs designed to help eligible people with disabilities become employed.

Examples of VR Services:

- Medical and Psychological Assessment
- Vocational Evaluation and Planning
- Career Counseling and Guidance
- Training and Education After High School
- Job-Site Assessment and Accommodations
- Job Placement and Coaching
- On-the-Job Training
- Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

<http://www.floridavets.org>

This site includes all kinds of information for veterans including veterans' health issues, benefits and veteran homes.

NAMI Florida

<http://nami.org/MSTemplate.cfm?MicrositeID=279>

The Florida chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness has 34 affiliates in communities throughout the state that provide education, advocacy, and support groups for people with mental illness and their loved ones. Each affiliate includes family members, friends, professionals, and consumers whose lives have been impacted by mental illness. Affiliates help members to access psychiatric services, treatment, benefits, medication, and housing.