Innovative Practices and Findings from Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Initiatives
April 4, 2023

Who/What is the Florida Developmental Disability Council?

• Federally funded, non-profit
• Florida statute 393
• Governor-appointed Council
• Make global changes in systems and services that impact children and adults who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and others
• Five-Year Plan
Go to www.menti.com

Enter the code
36510320

Or use QR code

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 36510320
Education Goals and Projects

**Project TOPs (Project Transitions tO Postsecondary InstitutionS)**
create a sustainable and replicable successful postsecondary model in a career and technical college setting for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**Improving Postsecondary Outcomes for Students Who Identify with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Hispanic/Latino:**
improve access to, and completion of, postsecondary education, particularly programs within the Florida College System, for youth who identify as individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and as Hispanic/Latino

**Postsecondary Models**
increase the expansion of, and access to, postsecondary education and training opportunities for Students with Intellectual Disabilities in various settings, including students with the most significant disabilities

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Education Outcomes

**Project TOPs:**
- Developed inclusive programming that benefitted all students
- Served as a model program with strong outcomes
- Two-part replication Guide
  - Section one (1) promotes developing a program for policymakers.
  - Section two (2) is a how-to guide for those who are developing programs.
Education Outcomes

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes for Students Who Identify with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Hispanic/Latino

Materials for all stakeholders
Website: pages, videos, interactive activities
YouTube Videos

More of Florida’s students with ASD graduate every year and choose to continue their learning and increase their income potential while seeking their dreams. Why not join them?

It is never too early to begin planning for your future, and Florida’s postsecondary education programs are admitting an average of 829 more students on the autism spectrum each year. Whether you want to study to obtain a degree, earn an industry certification to increase your income potential, or just experience college life, there are opportunities for you in Florida’s college, university, and technical college systems. This section offers...

Education Outcomes

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes

COLLEGE MATTERS

Materials created include a
Learning Modules for Educators
5-part speaker series and Promising Practices Briefs

COMING SOON: Awareness and Educational Outreach Toolkit

https://collegemattersflorida.org/
Transportation Goal and Projects

Increase access to the community and satisfaction with transportation services to life activities (e.g., employment, postsecondary education or training, recreation, leisure activities, shopping) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**Hillsborough County Area Transit (2016-2017)**

**Transportation Voucher Replication Projects (2020-2022):**

**Treasure Coast,** serving St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Indian River, and Martin counties via the Senior Resource Association

**Pinellas Mobility On Demand (MOD),** Pinellas county, and expanding services from Pinellas to Tampa Bay via Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

**Collier Area Transit** (Extended through 2023)

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Transportation Outcomes

- Award from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (2022)
- Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged funding new efforts replicating these programs
- Transportation identified as a legislative priority of the Council
- Rider’s Guides
Employment Goals and Projects

Employ Me 1st/Employment First Florida

Employment First Collaborative Training Initiative

provide collaborative training, technical assistance, and resources for agency and organization staff engaged in securing and supporting quality integrated, competitive employment for all individuals with disabilities. Using a training toolkit developed in earlier years of the project, extensive provider training, technical assistance, and mentoring of agency and organization leadership, six Florida sites are building their capacity to serve as models for other employment providers within their regions. It is anticipated that the sites will serve as a State-wide Technical Assistance Center, delivering supports through regional Communities of Practice (CoP).

At the conclusion of this initiative, ongoing implementation will be transitioned to an appropriate state-level Employment First Partner to promote long-term sustainability.

Employment Outcomes

The Employment First Florida website contains information for professionals, families, and individuals with disabilities

- Explore Work Lessons
- Interviews with People with Disabilities
- Job Stories
Employment Outcomes

- **Competencies** for Employment Specialists/Job Coaches
- Toolkit for training and finding resources for training, Easy Read Levels 1 and 2

Transition

**FYI Transition**: a [website](#) for transition-aged youth

- Planning: How to plan your future
- Courses: Online training
  - Community Life
  - Getting A Job
  - Managing Your Health
  - Managing Your Money
  - More Education
  - Self-Employment
  - A Home
  - Self-Determination
- Practice: Activities to download.
- Topics: Important areas to explore and learn
- Games: Play and learn activities
- Help: Where to find more information
Other Projects:

Florida Self-Advocates Network'D (FL SAND)

Florida SAND Fellows Training Program

Partners in Policymaking (PIP)
Thank you!

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