

# **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.**

## **What We've Accomplished Together 2017-2021**

September 23, 2021

# Goal 1: Transportation

## Outcomes

- A minimum of 3 sustainable transportation solutions are developed and implemented.
  - **Three achieved / Six will be achieved.**
- A minimum of one infrastructure change, resulting in increased access to safe and affordable transportation, is executed.
  - **Two achieved**
- Increased dollars and access
  - **Achieved**

# Treasure Coast Transportation Voucher Expansion Project

"We know that equality of individual ability does not exist and never will but we still must strive for equality of opportunity..."

-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Senior Resource Association's Community Coach provides convenient, door-to-door service for eligible riders with no other means of transportation. It is a shared-ride service so multiple riders and stops should be expected. Eligible riders can utilize Community Coach for traveling to non-emergency medical appointments, shopping, and social engagements throughout Indian River County, St. Lucie County, and Martin County.



## Your Guide to Ride

Community Coach buses are ADA compliant, and have the ability to accommodate passengers with wheelchairs, walkers, canes, service animals, and other mobility aides.

Our **specialty trained drivers** will assist passengers from their doorway to the bus, and from the bus to the entrance of their destination as needed. This is a fare free service provided by the FDDC.



## Let us hear from you!

Customer care agents are available to take your comments and suggestions by phone or by mail.

**Phone: 772.907.5457**

**Mail:** Indian River Transit  
4385 43rd Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32967

This project is provided by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc., supported in part by grant numbers 1901FLSCDD-01 and 2001FLSCDD-01 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.



25,034 trips since  
October 1st!

Serving 1,206  
unique individuals  
from Indian River,  
St. Lucie, and  
Martin Counties!

91% satisfaction  
rate at 4 or  
greater!

# Goal 2: Employment

## Outcomes

- Each of the nine signatory partner agencies/organization will reflect a 25% increase (over the 2014 baseline data) in the number of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities gaining employment above minimum wage.
  - **To be determined / Partially achieved**

# Employment First Collaborative Training Initiative



FLORIDA EMPLOYMENT FIRST  
COLLABORATIVE TRAINING  
TOOLKIT

[www.employmentfirstfl.org](http://www.employmentfirstfl.org)

A Resource for Funders and  
Employment Service Providers

SECOND EDITION



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Florida Developmental Disabilities  
Council, Inc.



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Griffin-Hammis Associates

# Employment First Collaborative Training

## Hot off the press in Easy Read!

**EMPLOYMENT FIRST FLORIDA TOOLKIT**  
A GUIDE FOR JOB SEEKERS

**EASY READ LEVEL 1**

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*This document was created in response to needs identified by the Florida DD Network Collaborative Leadership Development Program Cadre Members and Authors. (2021). Florida Employment Enhancement: Strengthening the System of Support. A White Paper from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Network Leadership Development Program.*

Employment First FLORIDA

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

# Goal 3: Elementary through Postsecondary Education

## Outcomes

- A minimum of four new improvements to transition services will be achieved with adequate services and supports.
  - **Achieved**
- Two or more policies or practices will be improved or developed to assist students attain meaningful post-school outcomes with adequate services and support.
  - **Achieved**

- For Parents
- For Educators
- For Postsecondary Students
- For High School Students
- For Other Stakeholders

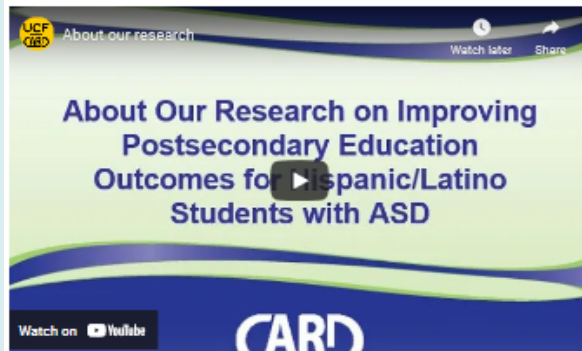
The dream of higher education is possible for students with ASD with early planning. The keys are in your hands



More of Florida's Hispanic and Latino students 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 400 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 programs within Florida's College, University, and Technical College systems that have a program for you. This website is designed to help students, parents and educators understand the steps needed to be ready for postsecondary education programs, and the skills needed to succeed once you are there.

Learn more about the Improving Postsecondary Education Outcomes for Students with ASD who are Hispanic/Latino Project



Are you considering college, technical college or university studies? Help is available. Learn more about programs, financial resources and more



click [here](#) to download or expand this item, also available in [Spanish](#)

About the terminology used on this webpage:

Language conventions are always evolving. We have strived to pick descriptors that are respectful of the ethnicities and populations referenced here. Nevertheless, there will be some people who would choose different words. When working from the perspective of professionals and educators, we use person-first language whenever possible, as we were taught that disability is only one aspect of personhood. However, we recognize that some groups and self advocates prefer to identify with disability-first language. Whenever possible, we have allowed the voices of real people describe themselves as they wish.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

We use students with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) to refer to all individuals in high school who have been diagnosed with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) or ASD.

Hispanic/Latino

We use Hispanic to refer to individuals who share Spanish as their primary language, as well as to refer to those individuals identifying themselves as having ancestors or family that used Spanish as a dominant language.

# Goal 4: Self-Advocacy Leadership

## Outcomes

- Florida SAND will have developed the infrastructure to sustain as an independent, non-profit organization.
  - **Partially achieved**
- A cadre of trained leaders will be established and available to provide leadership training to individuals with I/DD who desire to become leaders.
  - **Achieved**

# Goal 4: Self-Advocacy Leadership

## Outcomes

- The number of individuals and their families impacted by I/DD participating in diverse leadership coalitions, including participation on local and state level systems change boards, will increase.
  - **Achieved**
- A new group of trained advocates (minimum of 350 individuals and families impacted by I/DD) will be established.
  - **Achieved**



### Breaking Barriers Training Academy

Florida Self-Advocates Network'D (FL SAND) created the Breaking Barriers Training Academy in 2020 to provide training to self-advocates, parents, providers, and other disability stakeholders in the areas of self-determination, self-advocacy, disability sensitivity, and other topics.

Breaking Barriers Training Academy is unique in that a majority of offerings is developed and delivered by self-advocates.



#### ON-SITE TRAINING

Experienced self-advocate trainers are available to come to your organization to deliver training in a variety of areas. Contact BBTA to discuss your company's or organization's needs.



#### SPEAKERS BUREAU

Breaking Barriers has access to a variety of engaging and experienced self-advocate speakers who are able to speak on a variety of topics, from their inspiring personal stories of breaking barriers to informative talks on navigating employment, waiver services, benefits, transition, and community inclusion.



#### ONLINE COURSES

Breaking Barriers Training Academy is in the process of building its online offerings. We are proud to deliver "The Route To Self-Determination," a free course developed by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council to serve self-advocates in underserved geographic areas of the state who may not have access to face-to-face training.

[RTSD Course](#)



#### RESOURCES

Lists of national and statewide training and funding assistance.

[Resource Page](#)

# Goal 5: Self-Advocacy Systems Change

## Outcomes

- A minimum of one systemic change to federal and/or state statutes, rules, policies or procedures mitigating the income limits on people with I/DD will be implemented resulting in the restoration of their ability to independently control their income.
  - **Achieved**



## **Working People with Disabilities**

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**Report to the Florida Legislature  
November 30, 2018**



# Goal 6: Housing

## Outcomes

- A minimum of one systemic change to statutes, rules, policies or procedures designed to improve choice and provide for financial support for safe, affordable and inclusive housing with access to support services for persons with I/DD.
  - **Achieved**



Florida  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Council, Inc.

# FRAMEWORK

Effectively Engaging  
Individuals with Disabilities in  
Consolidated Planning

Produced in partnership with:



Florida  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Council, Inc.

[www.fddc.org](http://www.fddc.org)

# Goal 7: Workforce (Direct Support Providers/Professionals)

## Outcomes

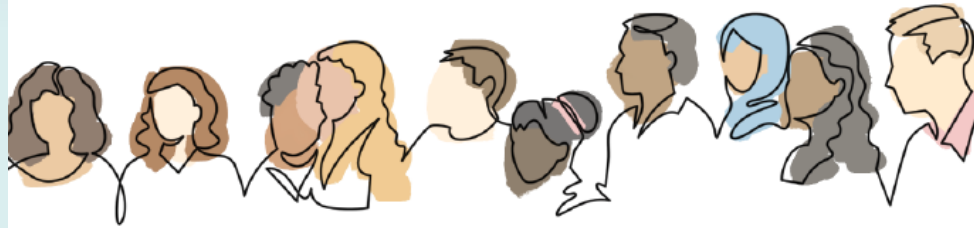
- One or more improvements will be made to practices, services and compensation for community-based service providers.
  - **Achieved**

# Recruitment & Retention

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BEST PRACTICES FOR BUILDING AN EXCEPTIONAL  
DIRECT SUPPORT WORK FORCE

SEPTEMBER 2020



# Goal 8: Broad Systems Change / Emerging Needs...

## Outcomes

- By the end of the five-year state plan, a minimum of six systemic changes to statutes, rules, policies or procedures at the state, regional or local levels designed to improve community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have been achieved.
  - **Achieved**

FDDC AND NATIONAL DISABILITY INSTITUTE PRESENT

# The Changing Face of Benefits

Knowledge for Successful Employment and  
Asset Development

Developed by



National Disability Institute

[nationaldisabilityinstitute.org](http://nationaldisabilityinstitute.org)

With Support from



Florida Developmental  
Disabilities Council

[fddc.org](http://fddc.org)

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# Programmatic Outcomes

- 53 state plan projects funded, many multi-year initiatives
- 4 collaborative projects/activities supported

# 2017-2021 Projects

## Total Investment

# Systems Change Models

- Transportation Voucher Projects
- Employ Me 1<sup>st</sup> / Employment First Florida
- Rural Routes to Employment
- Project SEARCH Expansion
- Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model
  - Training and TA
  - Research
- Improving Elementary Through Postsecondary Transition Services
- Project TOPS
- Transition Services Delivery Models
- Community Health and Wellness

# Research

- Supported Employment Provider Rate Study
- Improving Postsecondary Outcomes – Targeted Disparity
- Postsecondary Models
- Black ASD Identification Research Expansion Project
- Waiver Eligibility Income Limits Study
- Community-Based Housing Initiative Study
- Aging Caregivers Roadmap Initiative
- Dual Diagnosis Study

# Guides

- Rural Routes to Employment (Replication Guide)
- The Changing Face of Benefits, including Samuel's Journey
- First Steps
- Planning Ahead (In progress)
- Disability Awareness (Updates)
- Project TOPS (Replication Guide)
- Improved Coordination of Medicaid State Plan and Community-Based Services (Fact Sheets)
- Guardianship Alternatives Lighting the Way
- Community-Based Planning Guide
- Local Government Framework

# Curricula and Training Materials

- Employment Options Informed Choice Training
- Employment First Collaborative Training Toolkit
- Universal Design for Learning Regional Training
- Project SALT
- Nurse Practitioner Training
- Housing and Consolidated Plan Trainings

# Online Training, Modules, Resources

- Improving Postsecondary Outcomes – Targeted Disparity Webinars
- Postsecondary Models Modules
- FYI Transition Website (Update)
- Route to Self-Determination (Online)
- Florida Inclusive Housing Corporation
- Workforce Collaborative Training Initiative
- Guardianship Alternatives Lighting the Way

# Summits / Strategic Planning

- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
- Advocacy Summit (2022)
- Wait List Strategic Plan Implementation – Florida Lifespan Respite Alliance
- Waiver Provider Compensation Stakeholders Workgroup
- Community Engagement Plan

# Questions?