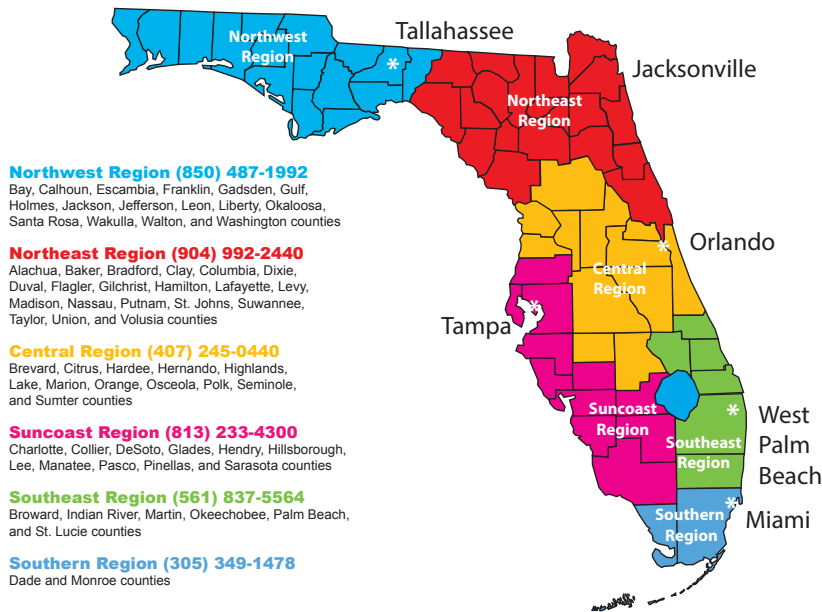




If you are ready to go to work, contact your local APD office or ask your support coordinator who will begin the process of getting you into the job market.

APD Regional Offices



## Michael Hurst – Pensacola

Artistic expression can take many forms, and Michael Hurst found his in the kitchen at Polonzo Bistro. Despite having limited kitchen experience, it only took Hurst one year to move from an intern dishwasher to head chef. Now he spends his time creating breakfast and lunch dishes for an ever-growing clientele.

Polonzo General Manager Steve Turner said, “Customers love him and business has picked up dramatically since he’s started cooking.”

“Before I was down because I couldn’t get a job and couldn’t support my family,” Hurst explained. “But this job has given me a heads-up on life. Now I’m moving up.”

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities**  
**1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273)**  
**(850) 488-4257**

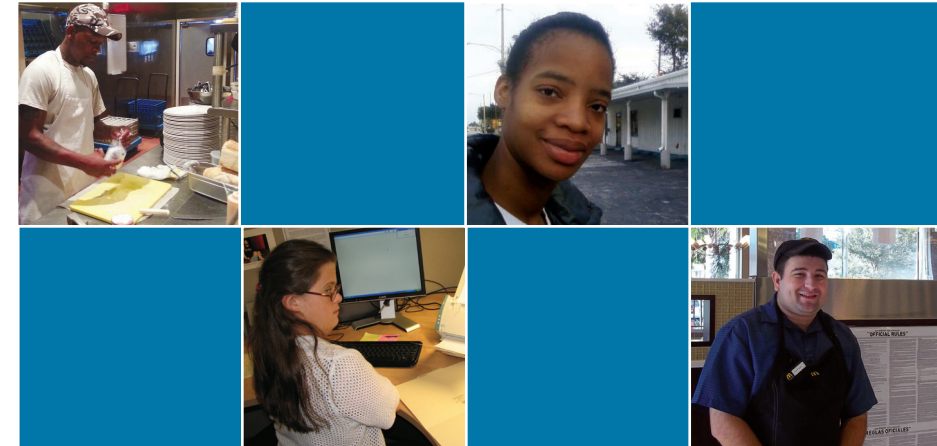
[www.apdcare.org](http://www.apdcare.org)

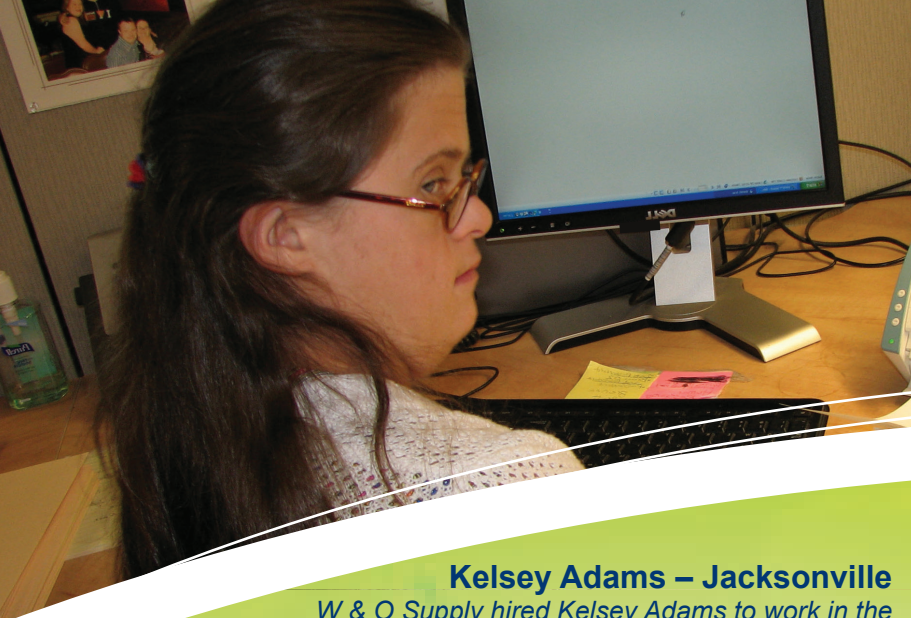
**APD Job Search Website:**  
[www.apd.myflorida.jobs](http://www.apd.myflorida.jobs)



# Do You Want to Work?

Supported Employment Can Help You





### **Kelsey Adams – Jacksonville**

*W & O Supply hired Kelsey Adams to work in the Human Resources office; however, with her great organizational skills, she was soon snatched up by the Accounts Receivable office to help other workers meet their paperless effort. Credit and Collections Director Brenda Britt said, “Kelsey is a great part of our team. Her duties are essential to help keep everything moving quickly and efficiently. She has helped us become paperless much faster than we would have without her help!”*



### **Shanquell Hart – Orlando**

*There is no doubt that Shanquell Hart is driven to succeed. Even though there were many challenges in her way, they did not stop her from getting a job at 18 Monroe, a restaurant in Orlando. Some of her duties include prepping the food and working at banquets. “I am very friendly and I am a hard worker,” says Hart. “I enjoy the feeling of being part of the team and helping out everyone.” Management likes the fact that she is always willing to help. According to Marc Saint-Pierre, “She’s learned a lot and has really grown as an employee.”*



### **Rafael Torres – Gainesville**

*Rafael Torres has been employed at one of the busiest McDonald’s in Gainesville for more than five years. He is the dining room attendant and responsible for the grounds as well. Torres enjoys his job because he gets to provide customer service to the patrons. Torres said, “I show up early to work each day to greet our customers.” Assistant Manager Shalonda Parker said, “Rafael has a great rapport with the customers. Our customers love him; one even brought him a cake to celebrate his birthday.”*

**The Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) helps people with developmental disabilities go to work and provides support as long as needed. APD currently assists several thousand people with disabilities in maintaining employment. Services are provided to individuals on the Medicaid waiver and those waiting to enroll into the waiver. Employment is a vital way for adults to become contributing members of their communities. APD helps with ongoing support to make sure the employee and the employer have their needs met.**

## **Supported Employment**

Supported Employment helps job seekers with significant disabilities so they may work. It provides intensive support and extended services to assist the person with performing their job. Ongoing support is provided by a job coach and include matching the

worker with the right job, assistance with training to make sure the APD customer is able to understand and learn the skills, and regular monitoring. Supported Employment is usually paid for through two state programs: Vocational Rehabilitation pays for the initial job match and on-the-job training, and then APD pays for ongoing support while the person is working.

A job seeker may also benefit from support that is a natural part of each workplace. These natural supports are typically co-workers, friends, and family members who help with some job-related tasks, such as reminding the employee when their break is over, assistance with clocking in and out, or arranging for or providing transportation. Support coordinators provide job assistance and help using APD’s job search site [apd.myflorida.jobs](http://apd.myflorida.jobs).

## **Here are some basic points to know about Supported Employment:**

- The individual makes decisions about what type of job they want to attain their goals
- The job is competitive work in an integrated setting for individuals with disabilities for whom competitive employment has not traditionally occurred
- Everyone is considered eligible and employable regardless of disability
- The salary is the same for all workers performing the job regardless of disability
- On-the-job training and ongoing supports are provided intensively at first, and then less often, as stability is attained