

**APPLICATION FOR APD SERVICES – THIS INFORMATION IS MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT: <http://apdcares.org/customers/application/>**

To apply for services from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), submit an application to the APD office that serves your area either by mail or in person. The locations of the regional APD offices can be found at <http://www.apdcares.org/region/>. The regional APD staff can assist you with the application process. The application can be found online at <http://www.apdcares.org/customers/application/> and is available in English, Spanish and Haitian/Creole.

The term Developmental Disability is defined in Section 393.063(12), Florida Statutes as: “a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.” To be eligible for services from APD, an individual must meet the criteria of at least one Developmental Disability as defined in Florida Statutes below:

1. **Intellectual Disability (Section 393.063(24), Florida Statutes)** – “means significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior which manifests before the age of 18 and can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely. For the purposes of this definition, the term:
  - a. **“Adaptive behavior”** means the effectiveness or degree with which an individual meets the standards of personal independence and social responsibility expected of his or her age, cultural group, and community.
  - b. **“Significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning”** means performance that is two or more standard deviations from the mean score on a standardized intelligence test specified in the rules of this agency.”

To demonstrate proof of an intellectual disability the applicant must submit standardized testing of intelligence administered by a licensed psychologist as well as testing of adaptive functioning.

2. **Autism (Section 393.063(5), Florida Statutes)** – “means a pervasive, neurologically based developmental disability of extended duration which causes severe learning, communication, and behavior disorders with age of onset during infancy or childhood. Individuals with autism exhibit impairment in reciprocal social interaction, impairment in verbal and nonverbal communication and imaginative ability, and a markedly restricted repertoire of activities and interests.” A diagnosis of autism may be made by licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, or developmental pediatricians who have specific training and experience in making such diagnosis.
3. **Spina Bifida (Section 393.063(40), Florida Statutes)** – “means a person with a medical diagnosis of spina bifida cystica or myelomeningocele.” Diagnosis is confirmed by written documentation from either a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or medical records that document a diagnosis of spina bifida cystica or myelomeningocele before the age of 18. Individuals with Spina Bifida occulta are not eligible to receive APD services.
4. **Cerebral Palsy (Section 393.063(6), Florida Statutes)** – “means a group of disabling symptoms of extended duration which results from damage to the developing brain that may occur before, during, or after birth and that results in the loss or impairment of control over voluntary muscles. For the purposes of this definition, cerebral palsy does not include those symptoms or impairments resulting solely from a stroke.” Diagnosis is confirmed by written documentation from either a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or other medical records documenting a diagnosis of cerebral palsy before the age of 18.

5. **Prader-Willi syndrome (Section 393.063(29), Florida Statutes)** – “means an inherited condition typified by neonatal hypotonia with failure to thrive, hyperphagia or an excessive drive to eat which leads to obesity usually at 18 to 36 months of age, mild to moderate intellectual disability, hypogonadism, short stature, mild facial dysmorphism, and a characteristic neurobehavior.” Diagnosis is confirmed by written documentation from either a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, medical records that document a diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome before the age of 18.
6. **Down syndrome (Section 393.063(15), Florida Statutes)** – “means a disorder caused by the presence of an extra chromosome 21.” Evidence under this category requires medical records documenting a chromosome analysis (also referred to as a karyotype) finding the individual has an extra genetic material on their number 21 chromosome. In the absence of a chromosome analysis, a diagnosis of Down syndrome can be accepted from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy. A prenatal diagnostic test may also be accepted as proof of diagnosis.
7. **Phelan-McDermid syndrome (Section 393.063(28), Florida Statutes)** – “means a disorder caused by the loss of the terminal segment of the long arm of chromosome 22, which occurs near the end of the chromosome at a location designated q13.3, typically leading to developmental delay, intellectual disability, dolicocephaly, hypotonia, or absent or delayed speech.” The diagnosis of Phelan-McDermid syndrome must be confirmed in written documentation from a physician which evidences the diagnosis was derived from genetic testing.
8. **High-risk child (Section 393.063(23), Florida Statutes).** “means, for the purposes of this chapter, a child from 3 to 5 years of age with one or more of the following characteristics:
  - a. A developmental delay in cognition, language, or physical development.
  - b. A child surviving a catastrophic infectious or traumatic illness known to be associated with developmental delay, when funds are specifically appropriated.
  - c. A child with a parent or guardian with developmental disabilities who requires assistance in meeting the child’s developmental needs.
  - d. A child who has a physical or genetic anomaly associated with developmental disability.”

Children considered to be at high-risk may not be placed on the Agency’s waiting list for waiver services until they show proof of a formal diagnosis of a developmental disability as described above.

As part of the application process, APD will request proof of a developmental disability diagnosis as described above. If you have the proof of eligibility that you can provide with your application, it will streamline the eligibility review process. Otherwise, APD will assist you in obtaining the information. Documentation of a developmental disability may include, but is not limited to school records, testing, or medical records. More information about eligibility is found in Rules 65G-4, Florida Administrative Code.

## SERVICES

APD offers a wide range of social, medical, residential, and behavioral services. The following is a list of services offered. Services provided are based on need and coverage criteria, so not all individuals receive all services.

- Adult Dental
- Behavior Analysis
- Behavior Assistant
- Consumable Medical Supplies
- Personal Supports
- Supported Living Coaching

- Life Skills Development 1 – Companion
- Life Skills Development 2- Supported Employment
- Life Skills Development 3 – Adult Day Training
- Therapies: Dietician, Occupational, Speech, Physical, Respiratory, Mental Health Counseling, Other Therapies
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Support Planning
- Competency Training
- Support Coordination
- Transportation
- Nursing
- Residential Habilitation
- Respite
- Special Medical Home Care
- In-Home Subsidies
- Family Care
- Assessments and Medical Evaluations
- Psychological Evaluations
- Personal Emergency Response Systems