

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we enter the holiday season, I want to extend my appreciation for the hard work and commitment demonstrated across APD this year. Our recent Veterans Day ceremony and Thanksgiving Luncheon reminded us of the strength of our APD family and the importance of taking time to reflect, celebrate, and support one another. Together, we continue making meaningful progress to expand opportunities and improve services for individuals with developmental disabilities across Florida. Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and compassion in all that you do. I wish you and your families a joyful and restful holiday season.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

In recognition of Veterans Day, APD proudly hosted a ceremony honoring veterans from APD, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Elder Affairs. This special event celebrated the bravery, sacrifice, and continued service of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our nation and supporting the people of Florida. We are deeply grateful for their leadership—both in uniform and in their ongoing commitment to strengthening our communities.



APD STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Daylis Zamora is a Programmatic Support and Services Supervisor at APD, dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities, their families, providers, and regional teams across Florida. A former U.S. Army Reserve Petroleum Supply Specialist (92F), she brings the discipline, teamwork, and resilience gained through military service into her public service role. At APD, Daylis helps guide statewide operations, streamline processes, and strengthen services through collaboration and accountability.



APD CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

APD client Drew Dees is a powerful example of turning challenges into opportunities. Born with cerebral palsy, Drew graduated from the University of Florida and now works as an Accessibility Specialist, supporting students with disabilities and helping them achieve academic success. Through his determination, advocacy, and commitment to empowering others, Drew demonstrates what is possible for APD clients working toward independence and success.

APD THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

APD staff recently gathered for a festive Thanksgiving Luncheon, celebrating the season of gratitude together. The event brought employees from across the agency to share delicious food, enjoy time together, and reflect on the meaningful work we do each day in service to Floridians with disabilities. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with fellowship, laughter, and appreciation for our dedicated team. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the luncheon such a warm and memorable celebration!



BECOME A WAIVER SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Are you seeking a meaningful career that makes a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities? APD is looking for compassionate and dedicated professionals to serve as Waiver Support Coordinators. If you have experience in case management, social work, education, health care, or human services, this may be the perfect opportunity for you. Waiver Support Coordinators play a vital role in helping individuals with disabilities live independently and access the services and supports they need to thrive. Make a lasting impact in your community—become a Waiver Support Coordinator today. For more information, visit apd.myflorida.com/providersupports/start.htm.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026 ADVOCACY AWARDS

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) is accepting nominations for the 2026 Advocacy Awards, presented during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. These awards honor individuals advancing advocacy, leadership, and opportunity for Floridians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Two awards will be given: the Idelio Valdes Self-Advocate Award and the Bobbie Lake Family Member Leadership & Advocacy Award. Nominate someone by December 15, 2025 at fddc.org/dd-awareness-day.

SHARE YOUR STORY IN 2026!

Want to be featured in The Rundown next year? We'd love to highlight your team, your accomplishments, and the incredible work happening across Florida's disability community. Whether you're an APD staff member, provider, partner organization, self-advocate, or community leader, we want to hear from you. Have a story idea, staff recognition, success story, regional highlight, or upcoming event to share? Email Laura.Walthall@apdcare.org. Your contributions help us celebrate progress and strengthen connections statewide—thank you for being part of the mission to support Floridians with disabilities!



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