

# AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As Legislative Session continues, we remain focused on shared priorities and on strengthening services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The thoughtful work happening every day—within APD and alongside our partners statewide—continues to make a meaningful difference. Thank you for your collaboration, professionalism, and continued commitment to the people we serve. I look forward to the work ahead and to continuing our efforts together.

## OBSERVANCES

- American Heart Month
- Feb 16: Presidents' Day
- Feb 20: National Caregivers Day
- Feb 28: Rare Disease Day



agency for persons with disabilities  
*State of Florida*

Contact Us

**Address:** 4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

**Toll-Free:** 1-866-APD Cares  
(1-866-273-2273)

**Phone:** (850) 488-4257



## APD STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Sylvia Baer is our Employee of the Month! She serves as APD's iConnect Stakeholder Manager and has been with the agency for nearly five years. Sylvia began her career in June 2021 as an OPS iConnect Trainer, later becoming a Qualified Organization Consultant for the Central Region before returning to the iConnect team as Training Lead. She now leads user acceptance testing for system enhancements and collaborates with subject matter experts to develop and update training materials that help users successfully navigate iConnect.

## A NIGHT TO SHINE RETURNS FEBRUARY 13TH

On February 13, communities across Florida will join thousands around the world for A Night to Shine, an unforgettable prom experience sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Hosted at churches and community venues throughout the state, this international celebration is designed to honor and uplift every guest. From red carpet arrivals and music to dinner and dancing, each participant is celebrated as a king or queen for the evening. A Night to Shine is a meaningful opportunity for the disability community to come together in joy, belonging, and celebration. Events like this highlight the importance of inclusion and ensure individuals with disabilities are recognized, valued, and celebrated in communities across Florida and beyond.

## JOIN US FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will host the 20th Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the progress made to expand opportunity, independence, and choice for individuals and families across Florida. DD Day brings together self-advocates, family members, providers, professionals, and community partners to connect with state leaders and raise awareness about key issues impacting Floridians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## NOW LIVE: ROADMAP TO FAMILY RESOURCES

We're excited to share that our new Roadmap to Family Resources page is now live! Designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as families and caregivers, this guide provides a clear overview of available state programs and connects you to helpful resources and next steps. Explore the Roadmap and get started today: [apd.myflorida.com/resources.htm](https://apd.myflorida.com/resources.htm).

### Department of Health: Early Steps



Serves ages: 0-36 Months

### Supports and Services

- Early Intervention Supports
- Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapies
- Hearing and Vision Services
- Developmental screenings
- Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP)

### Overview

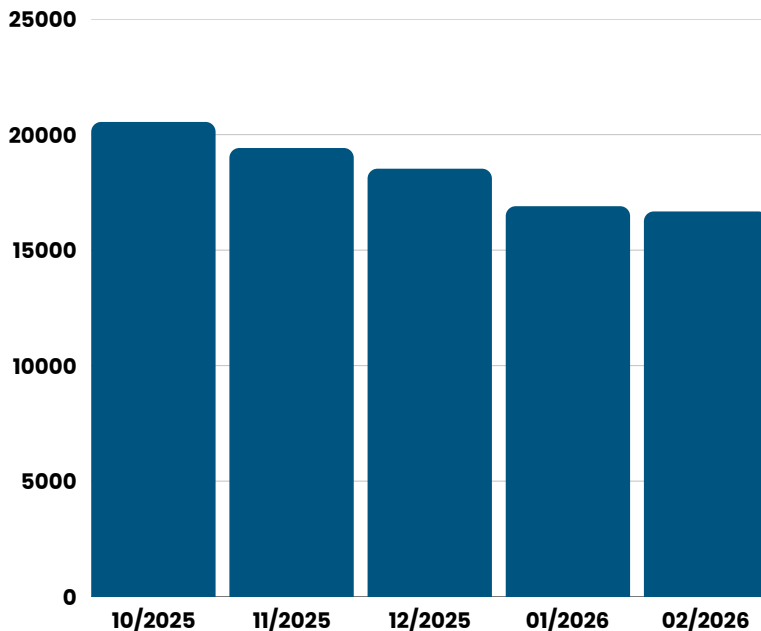
The Early Steps program provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with, or at risk for, developmental disabilities or delays. Services include screenings, therapies, assistive technology, and other supports that help families advocate for their child and develop an individualized plan that grows with them.

### Contact Information

Website:  
[Florida Early Steps](https://www.floridasteps.org/)

Phone number:  
1-800-218-0001

### Pre-Enrollment



## PRE-ENROLLMENT LIST TO WAIVER ENROLLMENT PROGRESS

These numbers highlight steady progress in transitioning individuals from the Pre-Enrollment List to the iBudget Waiver. This work helps ensure more Floridians can access the services and supports they need.

## APD PROVIDERS NOW LISTED ON FLORIDA HEALTH FINDER

APD providers can now be found on the Florida Health Finder website, a resource from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) that allows users to search for licensed health care providers and facilities across the state. This update makes it even easier for individuals, families, and caregivers to locate APD providers and learn more about available services in their area. Search Florida Health Finder here: [quality.healthfinder.fl.gov](https://quality.healthfinder.fl.gov).