

Innovative Practices and Findings from Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Initiatives April 4, 2023



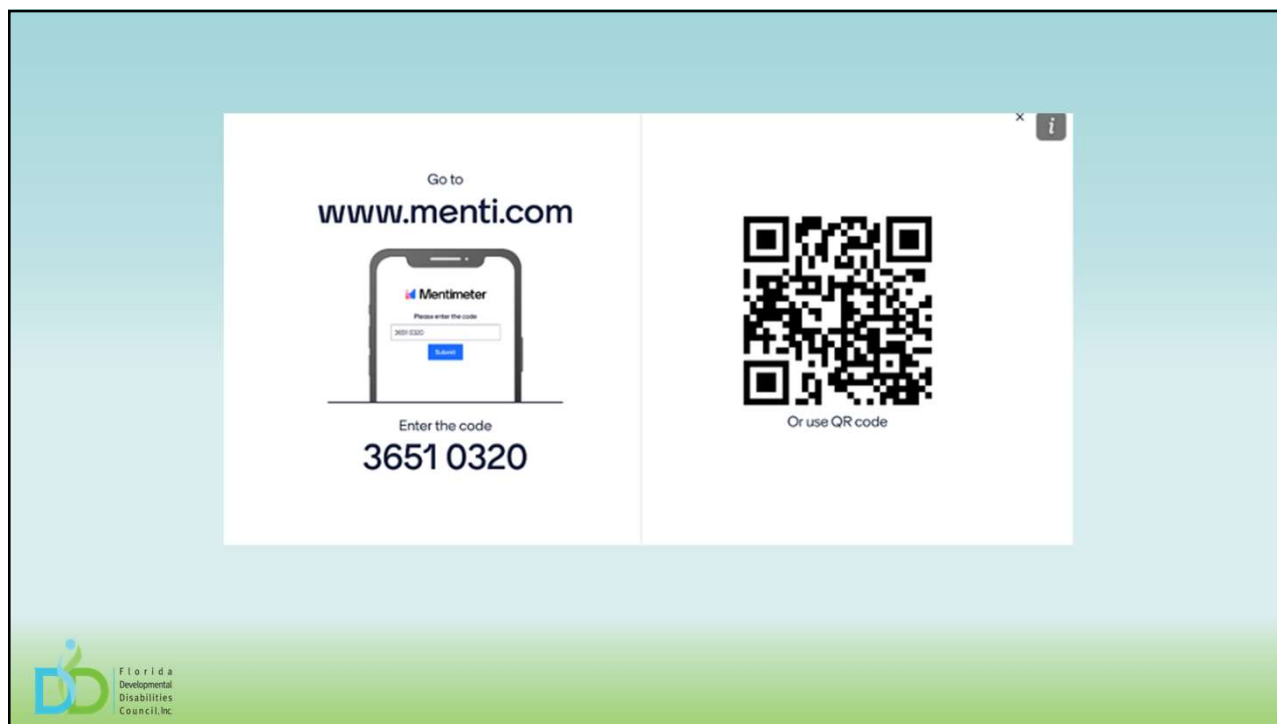
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Who/What is the Florida Developmental Disability Council?

- Federally funded, non-profit
- Florida statute 393
- Governor-appointed Council
- Make global changes in systems and services that impact children and adults who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and others
- Five-Year [Plan](#)



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Education Goals and Projects

Project TOPs (Project Transitions to Postsecondary Institutions)

create a sustainable and replicable successful postsecondary model in a career and technical college setting for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes for Students Who Identify with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Hispanic/Latino:

improve access to, and completion of, postsecondary education, particularly programs within the Florida College System, for youth who identify as individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and as Hispanic/Latino

Postsecondary Models

increase the expansion of, and access to, postsecondary education and training opportunities for Students with Intellectual Disabilities in various settings, including students with the most significant disabilities



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Education Outcomes

Project TOPs:

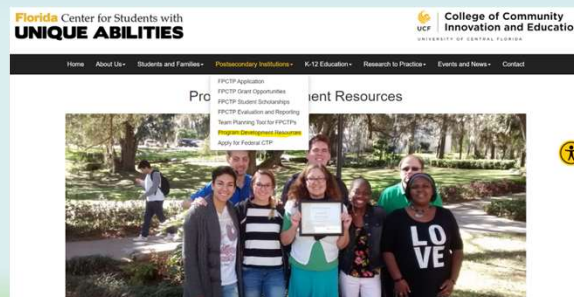
Developed inclusive programming that benefitted all students

Served as a model program with strong outcomes

Two-part replication Guide

Section one (1) promotes developing a program for policymakers.

Section two (2) is a how-to guide for those who are developing programs.



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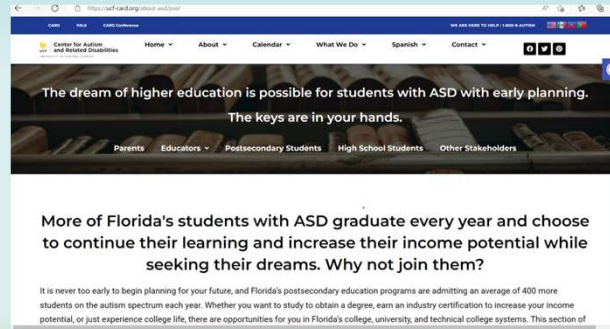
Education Outcomes

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes for Students Who Identify with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Hispanic/Latino

Materials for all stakeholders

Website: pages, videos, interactive activities

YouTube Videos



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Education Outcomes

Improving Postsecondary Outcomes

COLLEGE MATTERS

Materials created include a

[Learning Modules](#) for Educators

[5-part speaker series and Promising Practices Briefs](#)

COMING SOON: Awareness and Educational Outreach Toolkit

<https://collegemattersflorida.org/>



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Transportation Goal and Projects

Increase access to the community and satisfaction with transportation services to life activities (e.g., employment, postsecondary education or training, recreation, leisure activities, shopping) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Hillsborough County Area Transit (2016-2017)

Transportation Voucher Replication Projects (2020-2022):

Treasure Coast, serving St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Indian River, and Martin counties via the Senior Resource Association

Pinellas Mobility On Demand (MOD), Pinellas county, and expanding services from Pinellas to Tampa Bay via Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Collier Area Transit (Extended through 2023)



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Transportation Outcomes

- Award from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (2022)
- Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged funding new efforts replicating these programs
- Transportation identified as a legislative priority of the Council
- Rider's Guides



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Employment Goals and Projects

Employ Me 1st/Employment First Florida

Employment First Collaborative Training Initiative

provide collaborative training, technical assistance, and resources for agency and organization staff engaged in securing and supporting quality integrated, competitive employment for all individuals with disabilities. Using a training toolkit developed in earlier years of the project, extensive provider training, technical assistance, and mentoring of agency and organization leadership, six Florida sites are building their capacity to serve as models for other employment providers within their regions. It is anticipated that the sites will serve as a State-wide Technical Assistance Center, delivering supports through regional Communities of Practice (CoP).

At the conclusion of this initiative, ongoing implementation will be transitioned to an appropriate state-level Employment First Partner to promote long-term sustainability.



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Employment Outcomes

The Employment First Florida website contains information for professionals, families, and individuals with disabilities

- Explore [Work Lessons](#)
- [Interviews with People with Disabilities](#)
- [Job Stories](#)



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Employment Outcomes

- [Competencies](#) for Employment Specialists/Job Coaches
- Toolkit for training and finding resources for training, Easy Read Levels [1](#) and [2](#)



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Transition

FYI Transition: a [website](#) for transition-aged youth

- Planning: How to plan your future
- Courses: Online training
 - Community Life
 - Getting A Job
 - Managing Your Health
 - Managing Your Money
 - More Education
 - Self-Employment
 - A Home
 - Self-Determination
- Practice: Activities to download.
- Topics: Important areas to explore and learn
- Games: Play and learn activities
- Help: Where to find more information



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Other Projects:

[Florida Self-Advocates Network'D \(FL SAND\)](#)

Florida SAND Fellows Training Program

[Partners in Policymaking \(PIP\)](#)



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Thank you!

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