

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

How to access other Pinellas County Programs

Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.

(727) 548-1439

P.O. Box 17329

Clearwater, FL 33762

www.elcpinellas.net

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County is a not for profit planning and funding agency focused on early care and education. The goal of the Early Learning Coalition is to prepare all children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed. Additionally, the Coalition supports school age children in continuing academic achievement. The coalition achieves these goals in collaboration with community partners by providing:

- Child care scholarships
- VPK- Florida's FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten program for 4 year olds
- Training and technical assistance for child care providers
- Developmental, vision and hearing screenings

Department of Education

1-866-447-1159

www.fldoe.org/earlylearning

The Department of Education/Office of Early Learning (DOE/OEL) works in collaboration with the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education program.

Florida Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-962-2873

<https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 800-453-5145

Reporting systems are provided for your convenience to report non-emergency concerns of abuse and/or neglect. An emergency situation occurs when a child or elderly/disabled person appears to face immediate risk of abuse/neglect that is likely to result in death or serious harm (without intervention). If is an emergency situation: **FIRST**, call 911 then contact the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873.

Pinellas County Head Start Program/ Early Head Start

(727) 547- 5900

2210 Tall Pines Dr., Suite 200

Largo, FL 33771

www.pinellascountyheadstart.org

Head Start is a federally funded comprehensive child development program. It serves low income children from age 3 to mandatory school age and their families throughout the United States. Developmentally appropriate activities are presented to children in a language rich, nurturing preschool environment. At least 90% of the children enrolled in Head Start must be from families who meet the poverty guidelines. The remaining 10% may be from families above the income guidelines with approved extenuating circumstances. In addition, 10% of the total enrollment must be children who have been professionally diagnosed as having a disability.

There are no charges or fees for any of the following services provided by Head Start:

- Educations
- Nutrition
- Family services
- Mental health
- Disabilities
- Parent Involvement
- Transition
- Transportation

Department of Children and Families

1-866-762-2237

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/generalinfo.shtml>

The Department of Children and Families, ACCESS Florida Program has several programs that can help Florida families. They include, Food Assistance, Temporary Cash Assistance, Medicaid and Refugee Assistance. Each of these programs has its own eligibility rules, but you may apply for any (or all) of these programs at one time using the same application.

FLAIRS

1-904-390-3278

www.flairs.org

The MISSION of the Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services (FLAIRS) is to strengthen the health and human service information and referral provider network in the State of Florida through advocacy, coordination and education

United Way of Tampa Bay

1-813-274-0900

www.unitedwayoftampabay.org

This visionary organization is creating programs designed to make lasting and positive change in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties with a strategic focus on education, income, neighborhoods and safety net services to people in need.

WIC a service of the Pinellas County Health Department

www.pinellashealth.com

You may qualify for WIC if you are:

- breastfeeding,
- pregnant,
- legal guardian of a child under 5 years

WIC offers healthy foods like milk, cheese, cereal, eggs, etc. Eligibility for WIC is for low to moderate income. Eligibility for WIC is not affected by your current status in or out of the WAGES/TANF Programs. You are eligible for WIC if you have low to moderate income. Many WIC participants are not on public assistance and working full time.

Locations:

St. Petersburg	824-6900	Mid County	524-4410
Pinellas Park	547-7780	Safety Harbor	791-8255
Largo	588-4716	Tarpon Springs	942-5457
Clearwater	469-5800		

Services for Children with Special Needs

[FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center](#)

(727)793-2731

2929 Country Rd 193, Clearwater, FL 33759

www.fdlrs.com

Children eligible for services:

- Are birth to 21 years of age who are not enrolled in a public school
- May have special needs
- Are not receiving exceptional student education or related services

FDLRS Child Find is a service of the Pinellas county Schools for families with children with special needs. The mission of Child Find is:

- To discover whether a child has special learning need
- To identify what those needs are
- To link families to school district evaluations, programs, and services located throughout the county
- If your child is age 3 to 5 years, is having problems with speech/language, hearing, vision, motor coordination, concepts or behavior

[Early Steps Program](#)

1-800-654-4440/ (727)-767-4403

500 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/early_steps.html

If you have concerns about your child's development including speech/language skills, social or play skills, and or motor skills, please call the Early Steps Program.

The Early Steps Program at All Children's Hospital serves children from birth to age three. Services offered are developmental screenings, developmental evaluation and coordination of early intervention services for children with special needs.

[Florida Directory of Early Childhood Services \(Central Directory\)](#)

1-800-654-4440

www.centraldirectory.org

The Central Directory maintains a database which contains a wide range of information on community services, counseling, diagnosis/evaluation, early intervention services, education and training, equipment, medical screening, special education services, support groups, and therapies for age birth to 21 years.