

## CONTINUITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME WHEN FAMILIES CAN NO LONGER CARRY THE ROLE

A dignity-centered, family-guided model for lifelong stability and community living.

### Why This Matters

Adults with Down Syndrome thrive when structure, relationships, and daily supports stay predictable. But most of the “how” — the lived wisdom of parents and caregivers — isn’t written down or shared with the system.

When caregivers age, become ill, or pass away, the greatest risk isn’t medical — it’s loss of stability, housing, and trusted support. Continuity must be intentional, not left to chance.

### Navigating APD Eligibility, Crisis, and SAN Requests

Florida’s Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) recognizes Down Syndrome as an eligible developmental disability under §393.063, F.S. — yet enrollment still depends on available waiver funding and proof of ongoing functional limitations.

When immediate needs arise, families may request Crisis Waiver enrollment (for health and safety risk) or a Significant Additional Needs (SAN) increase (for existing waiver recipients).

- Gather and present eligibility and crisis documentation
- Coordinate medical, psychological, and functional evidence
- Write Crisis or SAN justification letters that align with APD rule 65G-1.047
- Communicate with APD staff and Waiver Support Coordinators
- Prevent denial by addressing statutory criteria and service documentation

### Medicaid Long-Term Care as a Parallel Path

When APD services are delayed or unavailable, the Florida Medicaid Long-Term Care (LTC) Waiver may fill urgent gaps. Through DCF’s eligibility process and local Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), individuals can access personal care, homemaker, and nursing supports to preserve community living and relieve caregiver strain.

- Identifies the most viable route (APD Waiver vs LTC Waiver)
- Manages DCF financial credentialing and form completion (CF-ES 2515, 3008)
- Builds care plans that prevent institutionalization and preserve autonomy
- Coordinates across programs to ensure there are no service interruptions

## **Our Role**

- Build continuity plans that document routines, preferences, and safety risks
- Prepare successor caregivers and legal guardians for transition
- Align medical, behavioral, and waiver documentation
- Coordinate with physicians, therapists, and case managers
- Support Medicaid and APD navigation at every stage

## **For Whom**

- Need structured support and predictability
- Have aging or ill caregivers
- Face gaps between APD and Medicaid programs
- Need advocacy to remain stable in the community

## **Our Approach**

Family-centered. Stability-driven. Advocacy-informed.

We protect the relationships, daily patterns, and supports that sustain independence — so continuity outlives any single caregiver.

**Assistance Care  
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