

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.

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