

BENEFITS

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Information on supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and SSA Retirement benefits.

(800) 772-1213

<http://www.ssa.gov/>

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

ACCESS Program

ACCESS Florida has several programs that can help Florida families, including food assistance, temporary cash assistance, Medicaid and refugee assistance.

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/access/>

FindHelp.org

Find food assistance, help paying bills, and other free or reduced cost programs.

<https://www.findhelp.org/>

EMPLOYMENT

Career Source - Heartland

Employment & training related services for job seekers, workers, youth, and businesses.

(863) 385-3672

<http://www.careersourceheartland.com>

Goodwill Industries- Suncoast, Inc

Helps to employ people with disabilities.

(727) 523-1512

www.goodwill-suncoast.org

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The Arc, Ridge Area

Consumer-focused provider of services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

(863) 452-1295

<http://www.ridgearearc.org>

Inclusive Education Services (IES Services)

Provides post-secondary educational experiences for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

(407) 823-2371

<https://ies.sdes.ucf.edu>

South Florida State College,

(863) 453-6661

<https://www.southflorida.edu>

EDUCATION **Exceptional Student Education**

The School Board of Highlands County

(863) 471-5583

<https://www2.highlands.k12.fl.us/home>

<https://www2.highlands.k12.fl.us/departments/ese-resources>

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Supports persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in all aspects of community life.

(407) 245-0440

<https://apd.myflorida.com/>

Center for Independent Living (CIL)

A place where people with disabilities can empower other individuals with disabilities for full inclusion.

(863) 413-2722

<https://www.cilorlando.org>

Florida's Center for Student's with Unique Abilities

Provides support to students, families, and institutions of higher education so that students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences that lead to employment opportunities.

(407) 823-5225

<https://fcsua.org>

Florida Division of Blind Services

Ensures blind and visually-impaired Floridians have the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success.

(800) 500-6412

<http://dbs.myflorida.com>

Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Providing employment opportunities to people of working age with disability that affect their ability to work.

Phone: (863) 386-6077

<http://www.rehabworks.org>

TRANSPORTATION

Medicaid Transportation

Provides transportation for persons with disabilities or transportation disadvantaged and have no other means of transportation.

(863) 382-0139 or (800) 260-0139

Highlands County Guide to Secondary Transition Resources



*This publication was developed by members of the
Highlands Interagency Transition Team*

Our Mission Statement: *A collaborative network of relevant stakeholders partnering to assist students and adults with disabilities to achieve their greatest potential in terms of post-school success.*



@HighlandsITT

<https://highlandsitt.weebly.com>

United Way 2-1-1: *Can be a link to local resources.*

Call 211 or

visit <https://uwcf.org/highland-county-services/>

Free information and referral to human/social service agencies within Highlands County.

24/7 - 365 days a year.

LEGAL

Highlands County Guardian ad Litem

Advocate for the best interests of Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children.
(863) 402-6969

Department of Juvenile Justice

Services may include various prevention, intervention and residential programs.
(863) 471-5300
<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/>

Disability Rights Florida

The designated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities in the state of Florida.
(800) 342-0823
<http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

Florida Rural Legal Services/Legal Aid

Non-profit law firm dedicated to providing quality civil legal advice, representation and education for low- income people and communities.
(863) 688-7376 or (888) 582-3410
<https://www.frls.org/lakeland>

Legal Survival Guide for New Adults

An online guide created by the Florida Bar.
<https://www.legalsurvivalguide.org/>

MEDICAL/HEALTH

Children's Medical Services

Family-centered programs for eligible children with a variety of conditions and special needs.
<http://www.cms-kids.com>

Nemours Children's Hospital

A pediatric health system that provides medical care.
(407) 567-4000
<https://www.nemours.org>

All Children's Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine

A pediatric health system that provides medical care.
(727) 898-7451 or (800) 456-4543
www.allkids.org

Peace River Center Outpatient Services

A community mental health organization providing behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and crisis services.
(863) 452-3003
<http://peacrivercenter.org/>

STUDENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES

Boys & Girls Club

Enable young people to reach their full potential.
(863) 451-5401
<http://www.highlandsbgc.org>

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida (USF CARD)

Information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders & related disabilities. Offers instruction and coaching to families and professionals through a training and assistance model.
(813) 816-0115 (Highlands)
<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>

Champion for Children Foundation

Provides programs and services to children and families.
(863) 382.2905
<http://www.championforchildren.org>

Family Café

Provide individuals with disabilities and their families with an opportunity for collaboration, advocacy.
(850) 224-4670 or (888) 309-CAFE
<https://familycafe.net/>

Family Network on Disabilities

Provides services to families and individuals who may be at-risk, have disabilities, or have special needs.
(727) 523-1130 or (800) 825-5736
www.fndusa.org

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)

A nonprofit organization focused on enhancing inclusion for Floridians with disabilities of all ages through device loans, device demonstrations, device reutilization, device trainings, information and assistance, and financing program.
(831) 844-7591
<http://www.faaast.org>

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)

Provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities.
(863) 531-0444
<https://www.fdlrsheartland.org>

Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)

<http://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com/>

Keiser University Multidisciplinary Center (FDLRS/KUMDC)

A Florida statewide discretionary project providing secondary transition services to school districts, parents, and students with disabilities.
(888) 453-4737 ext. 301
<http://kumc.keiseruniversity.edu>
<https://www.facebook.com/KeiserUMDC>

Heartland Horses Equine Activities and Learning

Provides children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a variety of equine activities.
(863) 452-0006
<http://heartlandhorses.org>

Project 10: Transition Education Network

Florida's statewide project supporting Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.
(727) 873-4661
www.project10.info

SEDNET - Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

A network of key stakeholders committed to assisting in the provision of a quality system of care for students with or at-risk of emotional and/or behavioral challenges.
(863) 535-6488 ext 485
<http://www.sednetfl.info/>

Special STARS

Special STARS is a sports and recreational program for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.
(863) 443-0438
<https://www.facebook.com/SpecialSTARS1/>

The Miracle League For Highlands County

Provides individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities an opportunity to play adaptive baseball.
(863) 451-6831

Technology & Learning Connections - MTSS

Increasing student achievement through technology, policies, and curriculum.
(844) 873-2127
www.tlc-mtss.com