

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

November is a time to reflect on service and gratitude. As we honor Veterans Day, we recognize the men and women who have served our nation—including many members of our APD family—whose dedication continues to inspire our work each day. I'm also proud to share that APD recently mailed more than 5,600 letters to individuals eligible to enroll on the iBudget Waiver. This marks a major step forward in expanding access to vital services for Floridians with disabilities. Thank you to our statewide teams for their hard work and professionalism throughout the enrollment process. As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm grateful for your continued commitment to APD's mission and for the difference you make every day.



APD TURNS 21!

APD celebrated its birthday on October 1st by celebrating at the State Office! Staff, former Directors, and partners came together to honor more than two decades of service and reflect on the Agency's continued commitment to supporting Floridians with disabilities. It was a joyful milestone recognizing APD's growth, impact, and the dedicated people who make it all possible.

LBRS & COMMITTEE WEEKS UNDERWAY

It's currently committee week season at the Florida Legislature — the time when lawmakers meet in Tallahassee to discuss priorities and review agencies' Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) for the upcoming fiscal year. Each fall, state agencies submit LBRs outlining their funding needs and initiatives for the year ahead. These committee meetings set the stage for the 2026 Legislative Session, which begins early next year on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Lawmakers will consider agency budget requests, review proposed legislation, and finalize the state's spending plan for the next fiscal year. Stay tuned for updates as APD's budget priorities move through the legislative process in the weeks ahead.

NOVEMBER OBSERVANCES

- Veterans Day – November 11th

IBUDGET WAIVER ENROLLMENT OFFERS

APD recently mailed more than 5,600 letters to individuals eligible to enroll on the iBudget Waiver in pre-enrollment categories 3, 4, 5, and 6. The agency has already begun receiving responses, and regional teams are starting the enrollment process. In the coming weeks, APD regional offices will host in-person forums for those who received letters to submit their enrollment forms or receive help completing waiver requirements. Staff will be available to answer questions about Medicaid eligibility, services, and benefits.



EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

APD celebrated the 19th Annual Exceptional Employment Awards, honoring individuals with disabilities who excel in the workplace and the employers who champion their success. In partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Blind Services, the event highlighted the power of meaningful work and opportunity across Florida.





APD SPOTLIGHT: MILOSZ GASIOR

APD client Milosz Gasior is a gifted pianist with autism who uses his musical talent to bring comfort and hope to others. Milosz volunteers at Moffitt Cancer Center, performing each week for patients and families, and has also shared his music at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and The Family Café. Through his passion and generosity, Milosz reminds us how APD clients across Florida are reaching their goals and giving back in meaningful ways.

FALL CHILI COOK-OFF & COSTUME CONTEST

APD staff enjoyed some friendly competition and fall fun at this year's Fall Chili Cook-Off and Costume Contest! The event featured delicious homemade chili, creative costumes, and great teamwork around the State Office. Congratulations to our winners: *Lisa Robertson* for best chili and *Ashlie Hardwick* for scariest costume! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this year's fall celebration a success.



APD STAFF JOINED THE 44TH ANNUAL SUNLAND FALL FESTIVAL

APD staff proudly participated in the 44th Annual Sunland Fall Festival in Marianna, joining residents, families, and community partners for a day of celebration and fun. The APD team showcased their spirit with a festive float in the parade and connected with attendees throughout the event, celebrating community and fall traditions.





APD STEPS UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME

APD Director Bob Asztalos and team participated in the Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk in Orlando. The APD team enjoyed connecting with families, sharing information about agency programs, and celebrating the achievements and spirit of the Down syndrome community across Florida.



SHAWN GOES BANANAS!

APD staff recently attended a meet and greet with APD client and part of our Unique Abilities Partner Program, Shawn Rosier, owner of Shawn Goes Bananas, a dessert mobile unit specializing in gourmet banana cream pudding and other decadent treats. Sean's growing business is a sweet success story and a reminder of what can be accomplished when you believe in your abilities—no matter the obstacles.



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