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Autism affects all of us.

Whether it is your child or a friend's child, your child's classmate or the person you see on your way to work, there are thousands of Floridians around us every day who have autism spectrum disorders.

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# FLORIDA CARDS

## Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities

Florida CARDS give Floridians with autism and related disabilities the opportunity to integrate into society and be productive citizens.

- **Unique only to Florida, CARDS are located at seven universities throughout the state.**
- **Florida CARDS serve more than 20,000 people with autism and related disabilities**
- **Florida CARDS serve individuals [throughout their life span](#).**

*For the price of what it costs to fund a 1,000 student elementary school, the seven Florida CARDS provide support training and services for over 20,000 constituents, their families and teachers from birth to adulthood for all 67 counties.*

- **Florida CARDS train school teachers to accommodate and educate students with autism**
- **Florida CARDS educate parents, families and communities about autism**
- **Florida CARDS provide training and consultation to support early identification and intervention**
- **Florida CARDS educate local employers so that adults with Autism can be successfully employed**

Florida CARDS are often the ONLY RESOURCES for individuals with autism and their families in rural communities

**[Florida CARDS provide lifelong programs that help individuals with autism succeed at schools. . . at colleges and universities . . . in jobs . . . in their communities](#)**

## Some startling facts and figures from the FSU CARD

- **One in 110 children have autism reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **FSU CARD helps 2871 clients in 18 counties who have autism or related disabilities, *349 MORE* than just one year ago. That is more than a 12% increase in one year.**
- **The FSU CARD appropriation suffered a 20% decrease in the same year**
- **Since 2006, FSU CARD clients have grown in numbers by 54%, from 1557 to 2871**
- **Since 2006, the FSU CARD appropriation has *DECREASED* by 34%, from \$1,058,766 to \$700,639.**
- **FSU CARD has responded to budget decreases by reducing non staff expenses, travel, materials, and equipment, eliminating Associate Director positions, and reducing the number of Autism Consultants through attrition, reassignment to other non-CARD projects, and layoffs**

**[Ask me about my personal story . . .](#)  
[With the FSU CARD, my family provides VALUE to Florida](#)**