



**University of South Florida
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Final Report and Year-End Summary**

2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted By
Beth Boone, PhD, BCBA
CARD-USF Executive Director

CARD-USF Constituency Board Objectives

- 1) Continue to meet on at least a quarterly basis.
- 2) Submit a final report of annual board activities to USF president, Dr. Rhea Law.
- 3) Review activities and outcomes of support efforts undertaken by CARD-USF.
- 4) Coordinate planning and implementation of annual fundraising events, such as Fiesta by the Bay, as well as participation in other regional events.
- 5) Support workgroup activities in areas such as fundraising, community outreach, and education.

I have reviewed this document and on behalf of the constituency board of CARD-USF, approve the final report for the year 2022-2023.

DocuSigned by:

Mark Fleming

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Mark Fleming, CARD-USF Constituency Board Chair

Date

CARD-USF Current Registry

	Registry Data as of June 30, 2023	Comparative Data from June 30,2022
Registry Total	8983	8527
Constituents on Registry by County		
Charlotte	115	114
Collier	176	182
Desoto	29	29
Glades	1	0
Hardee	48	44
Hendry	30	28
Highlands	205	196
Hillsborough	4100	3873
Lee	425	416
Manatee	242	234
Pasco	1133	1057
Pinellas	1286	1244
Polk	892	817
Sarasota	301	293
Constituents on Registry by Age		
0-2	18	25
3-4	186	161
5-15	3469	3424
16-21	2263	2197
22+	3047	2720
Annual New Referrals/Intakes	552	542
Annual Registry Losses	90	28
Annual Web Hits	2,613,867 (194,311 visitors)	2,727,042 (173,876 visitors)

*Registry total includes 8927 constituents with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and 56 with related disabilities (RDs). ASDs include autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder, and pervasive developmental disorders—not otherwise specified, Rett's disorder and childhood disintegrative disorder, and RDs include dual sensory impairments or sensory impairments with other disabling conditions.

In accordance with section 1004.55, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 6A-7.0335, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), CARD-USF provided non-residential resource and training services for persons of all ages

and levels of intellectual functioning with a documented diagnosis of autism, a pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, an autistic-like disability, a dual sensory impairment or a sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. Services were coordinated with local and state agencies and school districts in an effort to not duplicate services. CARD-USF has worked closely with its partner agencies across the state of Florida to ensure high-quality and equitable local, regional, and statewide service, consistent with the longstanding mission and values of the Florida CARD, a Florida Department of Education (FDOE) program since 1993. CARD-USF primarily provided services within its 14-county catchment area, but also collaborated with other CARD centers and state agencies/projects on regional (e.g., regional trainings, Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism - PEPSA program) and statewide initiatives (e.g., annual CARD conference, development of online training content, support of statewide performance plan indicators). Service delivery was consistent with the other six statewide CARD centers and was coordinated in the collective development of our projects' annual service plans and via phone/video conferences with CARD directors and FDOE's CARD liaison.

Outlined in this report is a summary of activities engaged in by CARD-USF during the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. An abbreviated quantitative summary of center constituent registry and service activities is also presented, which reflects our activities across all relevant variables specified in our grant award agreement with FDOE. Detailed programmatic activity and constituent contact data can be found in the project tracking system (PTS) database. This past year, CARD-USF integrated a new database server to accommodate the growing need for additional information and flexibility of data entry and analysis.

During 2022-2023, CARD-USF consistently met or exceeded its quarterly benchmarks for FDOE and completed its deliverables as defined in the annual Request for Application (RFA). In accordance with Rule 6A-7.0335, F.A.C., CARD-USF implemented a plan that included the following:

1. A staffing plan with, at minimum, individuals with expertise in autism or autistic-like behaviors and individuals with expertise in sensory impairments.

CARD-USF prides itself on having a highly qualified multidisciplinary staff with impressive longevity in terms of years of service to the project. Our project staff members are professionals with expertise in the following discipline areas: psychology, behavior analysis, special education, and social work. Our Executive Director is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst with over 22 years' experience in assessment, intervention, teaching, and leadership in neurodevelopmental disabilities. Our Program Director has a master's degree in varying exceptionalities and 24 years' experience in ASD, which she uses to guide our staff, families and community through supervision, trainings, direct and technical assistance. Our Program Director has been with the project since 2004. This continuity of leadership has contributed a high level of expertise and administrative stability to our project, which has certainly served to enhance our project performance and outcomes. We hired 3 additional staff members during this reporting period.

2. A direct service plan that must address individual and family assistance in the home, community and school. The project shall not supplant the responsibilities of other state and local agencies.

CARD-USF provided individual and direct family assistance (IDFA) across contexts (home, school, and community) in fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023. IDFA is defined by the CARD centers as any contact with any individual and/or family in reference to a specific CARD constituent. Families are advised of the range of services provided by CARD-USF and how to access those services when needed. Detailed information on how to access CARD-USF services is also available on our website, including an electronic registration form. The CARD-USF resource office staff responds to all initial inquiries for answering questions and initiating intake information.

All new families who require services are assigned to a CARD-USF staff consultant where the constituent and family needs are assessed, and a service plan developed. The CARD-USF consultant with whom the family meets is assigned to the family for ongoing individual and direct family assistance and all related future contacts. IDFA contact data are collected regularly, entered

into CARD-USF’s Filemaker reporting database, summarized quarterly and entered into the Project Tracking System (PTS) for quarterly and annual reporting.

Summary of Annual IDFA Data

Total IDFA contacts delivered annually	9,758
Total unique (unduplicated) individuals served annually	3,866
Total people served annually*	21,454

**This number may include some duplication*

3. A technical assistance (TA) and consultation services plan for providing specific intervention and assistance, utilizing all available community resources, to clients of the project, the clients’ families, school districts, and other service agencies and individuals as appropriate.

CARD-USF provided Technical Assistance (TA) services throughout our community in FY 2022-23. TA is defined by the CARD centers as assistance requested by an agency or program that is not related to a specific CARD constituent. Agencies requesting such services are directed to a TA request form on our website. Once a completed form is received by our central office, a CARD-USF consultant is assigned to contact the agency, assess need and determine a plan of action. TA contact data are collected regularly, entered into CARD-USF’s Filemaker reporting database, summarized quarterly, and entered into the PTS for quarterly and NIRS for annual reporting.

CARD-USF has an ongoing relationship with our 14 school districts. Included among our core services to schools are professional and programmatic assistance activities, the provision of school-based trainings such as delivering academic content to students with autism or related disabilities, specialized training content and materials for administrators, and workshops designed to promote meaningful inclusion of learners with autism or related disabilities.

CARD-USF continues to work closely with The Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA) to support individual teachers in implementing effective educational practices through a teacher partnership program. CARD-USF continues to pair a staff member with a selected educator to improve the classroom experience for students with ASD when accepted into the program through an application for approval. There were no applications submitted during this reporting period. We continue to promote the program. There were many factors for no applications including residual impact on educators returning to the classroom from the COVID-19 impact.

The CARD-USF early childhood team has continued our multiyear partnership with Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) to serve children with ASD in Hillsborough County during 2022-2023.

Summary of Annual TA Data

Total TA contacts delivered	3,782
Total unique (unduplicated) individuals served	1,338
Total people served*	10,272

**This number may include some duplication*

4. A professional training program plan that includes developing, providing, and evaluating pre-service and in-service training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work with the populations served by the project and their families.

CARD-USF provided local trainings for professionals in FY 2022-2023 in an attempt to ensure that all professionals working with CARD-USF constituents are trained in state-of-the-art “best practices.” All CARD-USF trainings are open to all interested parties in the community, including family members, at no cost. Agencies requesting training are directed to a training request form on our website. Once a completed form is received, a CARD-USF staff member contacts and arranges the training. We continue to expand the array of online training content each year. Training data, including participant demographic information, and participant evaluations are collected regularly and entered directly into the PTS for quarterly and NIRS for annual reporting.

In our ongoing partnership with school districts, we offered a virtual annual Autism Summer Institute for teachers which was attended by teachers and related school personnel. We had a turnout of 642 attendees. This event continues to draw new interest as we showcase nationally known presenters and local experts.

Each year, CARD-USF has been involved in the planning of other educational events that seek to improve the supports and inclusion of students with ASD. The statewide CARD centers were charged by FDOE to develop an online training module to address the topic of preventing seclusion and restraint of students diagnosed with ASD. This was in collaboration with other CARD sites. We created and continue to update, as needed the following: provision and/or dissemination of training on best practice strategies to utilize to prevent/decrease the possible likelihood of the utilization of restraint procedures in school and/or community settings (e.g., communicative, behavioral, transitional support). CARD-USF continues to provide resources and information through trainings regarding general strategies for successful interaction with individuals with ASD.

CARD-USF assisted and participated in the 30th Annual CARD Statewide virtual conference- January 2023. The conference was attended by 754 families and professionals. This conference offered 2.5 days of nationally known and local experts on ASD and related disabilities. The presenters gave current and valuable information to teachers, families, professionals, and individuals with ASD. It provided access to evidence-based information that promotes best practices in education, early intervention, and quality community-based lifestyles for individuals with ASD and related disabilities. It also offered a separate track for ADOS II training. The PEPSA Pre-Conference Day had 543 attendees.

CARD-USF is actively engaged annually in developing and disseminating new materials to build the capacity of educators. We produced 9 new materials, tools, and/or training modules this year. CARD-USF continues to work closely with the public and private school districts to provide trainings and follow-up materials and technical assistance.

CARD-USF added to our schedule of deliverables and completed specific local, regional, or online trainings: provision of an on-site, virtual or online training and accompanying resources for school district administrators regarding general characteristics of students with ASD and related disabilities, possible evidence-based educational interventions which may be utilized, as well as interventions related to behavior, communication, sensory issues, social interaction, and other relevant areas. This may include strategies to promote successful inclusion, and more optimal post-secondary outcomes. Also, provision and/or dissemination for educational professionals supporting learners with ASD to build readiness and emerging literacy skills.

Another important way that CARD-USF distributes materials, training content and resources is through our website, which is maintained and updated regularly to include evidence-based educational approaches for students with ASD. Our website showcases online trainings for educators, resources for families, and materials for administrators.

CARD-USF continued to offer the Baby Bulls Caregiver Training Series which offers practical, effective strategies for parenting/caregiving young children on the autism spectrum. The Training is based on the “Little Owls” early intervention series from CARD-FAU. Each of the Baby Bulls Training Series took place over 5 weeks, meeting twice a week. Participants received a total of 10 plus hours of training and discussion with follow-up emails and resources for each of the trainings. These trainings are intended for caregivers of children aged 18 months to 6 years of age.

In addition, CARD-USF continues to work with law enforcement and associated agencies to provide training and technical assistance to ensure positive interactions occur with individuals diagnosed with ASD. During this reporting period, CARD-USF provided 6 trainings for 134 law enforcement attendees and associated agencies.

Summary of Annual Training Data

Total number of onsite local trainings/workshops	106
Total number of in-person participants	3,553
Total number of virtual trainings/workshops	141
Total number of online attendees	3,563
Total number of visitors to online training page	1,452
Autism Summer Institute, regional training	1

5. A public education plan to increase awareness of the public about autism, autistic-like disabilities of communication and behavior, pervasive developmental disorders, dual sensory impairments, and sensory impairments with other disabling conditions.

CARD-USF hosted or participated in numerous public education and awareness events throughout our catchment areas in FY 2022-2023 including regional community resource and health fairs, and autism awareness events. Specific events and related data can be found in PTS and NIRS.

Summary of Annual Public Education/Awareness Data

Total number of in-person general public education presentations	75
Total number of in-person participants	10,022

6. Description of how the project will interface with the medical community to ensure the appropriate use of medical consultation in the provision of services.

Collaborations continue to be a priority. CARD staff met with Abby Shockley and Beth Holland of the Department of Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center at the USF College of Behavioral and Community Sciences to discuss the ways in which we can collaborate in providing education and technical assistance to the department and the grantees who are being served by the department. It was determined that in the future quarter, CARD will contribute to the departments’ newsletters and offer trainings and technical assistance as requested by grantees. Mental Health Collaborations have been ongoing monthly with the Autism Subcommittee of the Pinellas County Systems of Behavioral Health Care. We are collaborating on a training tool, that when complete, will be offered to all mental health service providers in the Pinellas County systems of care. The partners in the Autism Subcommittee include professionals from: PEMHS, Suncoast Center, Pinellas County Public Schools Student Support Services, APD, Evara Health, BayCare Behavioral Health, and CARD-USF. The

Subcommittee includes individuals who are both on the autism spectrum and licensed clinicians. In addition, communication has continued with the Hillsborough County Public Schools Student Support Services (Psychologists, Social Workers, School Counselors) and CARD-USF staff have provided two sessions of comprehensive in-service mental health and ASD training for all staff in elementary, middle school and secondary settings. Other community partnerships related to mental health include the Children's Committee and the Local Planning Team of Hillsborough County where CARD-USF attends monthly meetings to provide technical support and training as needed on the topic of mental health and ASD.

A CARD Consultant supervised two graduate students from the School of Social Work at USF, providing clinical supervision on a weekly basis and oversaw their activities, which included building rapport and assisting a young adult on the autism spectrum to make choices regarding her career path, co-leading a parent education and support group, engaging in public awareness activities at autism-friendly businesses, shadowing CARD staff in trainings and in-take phone calls, and meeting with constituents for office visits.

CARD USF was a presenter at the Statewide CARD Conference in January and offered a training entitled "Don't Miss the Boat." on the importance of mental health in the elementary education system. The target audience was school administration, teachers, parents, student support staff, school counselors, psychologists, and service providers.

CARD-USF has worked with St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa to provide monthly consultation and 3 out of a series of 4 trainings that address an overview of ASD, Sensory and Communication supports, Mental Health, and Crisis De-escalation. CARD has collaborated and co-presented with a Child Life Specialist and Training Education Specialist to deliver in-depth trainings to large groups of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, and hospital staff.

CARD-USF met with Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Behavioral Health Unit where we recently provided an intensive training on Mental Health and ASD and began plans for developing some social narratives and guides on participating in the behavioral health unit programs and entering the acute care facility.

CARD-USF regularly collaborates with Child Life Specialists at Advent Health Hospital and St. Joseph's Children's Hospital to meet the needs of families of children with ASD who are in the hospital.

7. Description of its working relationship with and support of the constituency board, as defined in s. 1004.55, F.S.

CARD-USF continued its close collaborative relationship with its constituency board, which operated in accordance with approved CARD-USF by-laws and has maintained a membership of people who represent several CARD-USF counties. We continue to be proactive in recruiting members with ASD (self-advocates), which adds their valuable input and perspective to our activities. We currently have 5 members on the Board who are self-advocates (one of which is our newly elected Chair to begin serving July 1, 2023) and an additional self-advocate who recently submitted their application and will attend their first meeting in FY 2024. Proposed constituency board members' names were submitted to the president of the Autism Society of Florida and then to the USF President, as specified in statute, for approval. Our constituency board continues to make connections and increase membership in this area. Constituency board members reviewed annual program budget and goals, hosted quarterly meetings with CARD-USF staff to review programmatic and budgetary priorities, and participated actively in public awareness events and fundraising events to help support CARD-USF operations. Finally, board members participate in relevant trainings related to their own and their family's needs and interests throughout the year, including the annual CARD conference.

8. Dissemination of Appropriate Nutritional Information.

CARD-USF disseminated appropriate nutrition information for constituents in various formats. We continue to provide nutritional information to constituents and collaborate with other agencies as needed. During this reporting period, we added the following to our CARD-USF website as required: A guide to foods/recipes based on texture and includes some brief information about food chaining to expand texture tolerance (CARD-USF staff member, Megan Grant created). Podcast: A podcast from CARD-UF about nutrition. Articles: Daily Routine Explorations with your Young Child at Mealtime (STEMIE), Effects of Diet, Nutrition, and Exercise in Children With Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Literature Review.

Summary of Supplemental Activities in Support of Program Objectives

CARD-USF has been engaged in working collaboratively with other entities within and outside of USF in supporting the ever-expanding scope of our project and our growing community needs. CARD-USF continues to strengthen its program through the cultivation of strategic community partnerships.

This past year, we continued building on close relationships with our 14 school districts and enhanced our community outreach efforts through numerous public awareness efforts, in collaboration with local schools/agencies.

CARD-USF continues to offer regularly distributed substantive and informative newsletters. The CARD Connector is a brief monthly newsletter that clinicians from around our communities may contribute to as well as our constituency board chair, along with announcements. The CARD Community Connection newsletter is a full edition that comes out two times a year. They are both on our website archives.

CARD-USF continues our autism-friendly business initiative which has become known across the United States. CARD-USF continues our autism-friendly business initiative. During this reporting period, we added 5 new businesses. CARD-USF provided 20 autism-friendly trainings for 776 individuals. CARD-USF continues to develop and purchase materials to create “Distract Paks” for individuals with ASD for new and existing businesses. Despite the disruption of COVID-19, our autism business initiative was able to conduct valuable, virtual activities with and for our business partners.

Designated CARD-USF staff continues to serve on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee to continue expanding and monitoring the “Autism Friendly City of Tampa” initiative. This includes Mindy Stevens, Christine Rover, and Liz Burke. Dr. Boone continues to be a member of the President’s Advisory Council on Accessibility (PACA) at USF.

CARD USF is also a regular participant of the Glazer Children’s Education Committee and provides technical assistance with the “Learn and Play Tampa Bay” program at Glazer Children’s Museum; where we participate in the planning and technical support for upcoming events and exhibitions geared toward early childhood literacy and parental engagement.

A core function of CARD is to provide training and assistance to local, regional, and statewide work groups and committees. CARD staff actively engages with these organizations to provide education about autism and an individual’s specific needs. We strive to provide the tools and knowledge to help these groups and committees better serve their communities with autistic individuals in mind.

Our staff currently participates in over 70 committees or work groups. The groups meet either monthly, quarterly, or annually and they range from topics of safety, mental health, education, and emergency preparedness planning.

Safety Awareness

Safety concerns within the autism population have been addressed by CARD-USF in multiple formats. We have been involved with the Josh the Otter Water Safety Initiative and curriculum. CARD-USF

continues to provide safety kits to families in need of support in this area. CARD-USF staff continues to be involved on the various Safe Kids committees. Also included are SafetyNet collaborations and purchasing bracelets through fundraising funds.

Safety Kits: Received over 500 window and door alarms from Safe Kids of Greater Tampa. These will be added to our updated CARD Safety Kits. These will be distributed among consultants for instant access when the need arises and for demo at Public Awareness Events. Autism & Safety Kits with our NEW! Poison Prevention magnets, cabinet locks, and medication lock boxes. Safety Kit guides are being updated and translated into 2 other languages.

Hurricane Safety: Updated our Supporting Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in an Emergency Shelter, CARD Hurricane Tip Sheet/Hurricane Evacuation checklist, Hurricane and Autism Guide, and Hurricane Shelter Checklist updated and translated into Spanish. Hurricane expo information shared, when available, for all of our counties. Hurricane Safety guides updated with Florida resources, shelter registration, and annual shelter registration update mandate.

Water Safety and Hurricane Safety Packages were distributed to Palm Harbor Fire, Clearwater Office of Emergency Management, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, and Tampa. They received the following: Hurricane Guide English and Spanish, Hurricane Social Narrative English, CARD Hurricane Tip Sheet, and Relaxation Destination Flyer. Hurricane Ian Impact Survey from DRF shared with staff, constituents, family members, and community partners.

CARD Connector newsletter featured water and hurricane safety resources.

CARD-USF continues to participate in safety events. We distribute materials and hold safety-related events. We attended over 100 safety meetings with the following 12 safety-related committees: Water Smart Florida Committee, Safe Kids Florida Committee, Safe Kids Pinellas Water Safety Committee, Safe Kids Suncoast Meetings and E-Board meetings for Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota and Greater Tampa. Included are Pinellas County VOAD Meetings; JHACH (John Hopkins) Unified for All Kids and performed Children's First Classroom observations. We collaborated with Yes! of America United to coordinate and organize Safety Street at the Yes! Fair. Safety Street had law enforcement, fire rescue, and many other safety exhibitors that served over 500 event attendees. Josh the Otter made several appearances at schools and community events to promote water safety.

CARD also participated in Sensory Friendly Guppyween and Sensory Saturdays hosted by The Florida Aquarium; Sensory Relief Zones were offered at the YES FAIR and the Glazers Children's Museum Birthday Bash; We held safety-focused public awareness tables at many events that included West Coast Word Church Harvest Festival. Temple Terrace Fire Department Open House, YES! FAIR, Julian B Lane Park's Tampa Police Tampa Night Out, and IKEA Green Safety Day. At our annual Fiesta by the Bay for Autism event, 10 voice smoke alarms were distributed along with a host of other safety items.

CARD-USF created and shared Facebook posts related to our Safety Video Contest, and Hurricane Resources. We also shared a School Lock Down social narrative with the Pasco County School District. On social media, Cafecito and Coffee Break covered the following safety-related topics: Coffee Break with Card: Interview with John's Hopkins Hospital; Halloween Safety in English and Spanish; Safety and Prevention Month resources shared on Facebook. Holiday tips and safety strategies were included and shared on social media in CARD's Holiday Resource Guide. Our E-library is available to registered families and professionals. In addition to the cultural awareness material highlights, we created and shared resources on Halloween Safety and Reducing stress during the holidays. The new holiday guide covers several holidays and was featured in social media and our E-Library. We have new titles available in our E-library. We highlighted books on the important topics of safety. These books and several others can be accessed through our E-library. CARD also shared and collected clothing and safety donations for the hurricane relief efforts in our counties. Donations were provided in Ft. Myers, to Suncoast Safe Kids for Manatee and North Sarasota counties and to a church in South St. Pete that provided resources in Deland for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

Social Media & Website:

CARD-USF shared information on social media to provide information, education, and community events. Posts are created to promote CARD-USF services, involvement in the community, and various topics of interest to the autism community. These topics range from safety, education, health, sensory sensitivities, general autism information, family, or community services, and more.

One topic for regular posts is safety. CARD-USF's safety posts centered around water, hurricane, biking, fire, and poison safety. These posts consisted of CARD educational materials, tips, visuals, and community events/lessons that further promote safety for the community to actively engage in. These events promote safety protocols and demonstrations as well as giveaways such as bike helmets and lifejackets.

CARD-USF also used social media to highlight sensory-friendly efforts, trainings, or conferences in the field of autism, and various events or topics for families within our 14 counties.

CARD-USF made updates to our website for safety resources and programs. Our hurricane safety booklet was updated in both English and Spanish. New poison safety products were added to our website: poison prevention strategies and medication safety tips. Swim lessons and summer camp listings for all 14 counties were posted to the website and provided to families upon request. Our past newsletters are updated each month on the website to ensure the newest newsletter and past issues are viewable.

THE LEARNING ACADEMY (TLA)/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (TLA-ES) **(Sister Project to CARD-USF)**

The Learning Academy Services rebranded to LAUNCH at USF. The rebranding includes a new logo and website that better represents the organization's growth over the years and evolving into a hub for employment and transition-related services. As LAUNCH at USF enters year four under the new name and logo, the program and service offerings are clearly defined. LAUNCH at USF's core areas includes the Academy, Employment Services, Business Solutions, Technology Training, and Youth Transition. <https://launch.cbcs.usf.edu/index.html>

LAUNCH Academy at the University of South Florida is a customized transition program that assists in preparing young adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder for employment and post-secondary success. LAUNCH Academy (formerly Learning Academy) has been operating since 2009. LAUNCH Academy provides services, support, and experiential opportunities that develop and enhance students' independence in meeting personal career goals. Our students engage in self-discovery and career exploration through real-life experiences such as Applied Learning Experiences (ALE), support groups, and peer mentoring, allowing the generalization of learned skills. The Academy program is offered to 15 students with I/DD yearly.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 17 students were enrolled in the Academy with a 100% graduation and convocation rates. Four students were employed at or right after convocation, nine students are attending or applying to higher education/technical school, eight are pursuing employment, and five plan to be or are already employed while pursuing higher education. Many students are referred post-graduation for job coaching with LAUNCH Employment Services. At the time of referral, students will have identified a preferred career and gained some experience through an ALE during the Academy.

LAUNCH Academy also continues to share best practice materials with colleges, universities, and other entities supporting employment and higher education for individuals with I/DD. Five colleges, ICLs, and other educational entities received information on the Academy via training and informational materials. In collaboration with Dr. Tammy Smith (PI), LAUNCH pursued the Pathways to Partnership Innovative

Model Demonstration Project grant to replicate the program in rural areas of Florida. LAUNCH staff will continue seeking research and other grant opportunities that benefit people with I/DD in meeting their employment goals.

LAUNCH Employment Services (LES) offers customized employment support for individuals on the autism spectrum and with related disabilities. LES is a certified vendor with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide Employment Services, Supported Employment Services, Discovery, Customized Employment, CBTAC, Pre-Placement Training, and On the Job Training. Accompanying this model is LAUNCH Business Solutions, offering consultation, training, and technical assistance to small and large businesses to build the capacity to hire and retain employees and interns with ASD and I/DD.

This year LES spent over 750 hours serving 46 job seekers; all were supported in seeking or have been placed in their preferred careers. LES provided 98 hours of technical assistance to 13 employers. Staff received positive feedback on the quality of support provided by the LES team. Professionals felt increased confidence in their ability to be a natural support to students and job seekers participating in on-site or remote employment, internships, or volunteer roles. All internship and job sites are offered these services to ensure successful experiences for our students, job seekers, and businesses.

LAUNCH exceeded training and TA goals. LAUNCH staff provided six virtual and in-person training on topics related to transition and 49 hours of TA (12 TA activities) to parents, families, and individuals with I/DD. Finally, the LES team provided a total of 15 trainings on various employment-related topics to employers, families, and job seekers. Survey responses were positive for all transition and employment-related training. A total of 63 surveys were received during year three. Around 85% of survey respondents reported their knowledge base increased after training, with the remainder not responding to the question or reporting indifference.

Other notable accomplishments from this year include:

- Graduation of Tech2Work's second cohort consisting of 5 participants.
 - o Students from this cohort received 570 hours of classroom education.
 - o All five participants passed the IC3 certification exams.
 - o Four of the five participants passed the RPA Essentials exam.
 - o In addition to the RPA Essentials test, one of the five participants passed the optional Advanced RPA exam: a test with a low passing rate among college graduates and seasoned tech professionals.
- 4080 hours of instructional time to LAUNCH Academy students.
- Over 820 people received training from LAUNCH staff.
- **See the infographic below for other outcomes.**



The information found below is a summary of data collected from LAUNCH's various programs over the 2022.2023 Fiscal Year.

95%

The percentage of responders in a 2022 Academy survey reported being employed after graduating.



18 of those students reported having a full time job.

39

The number of Academy graduate who work more than 20 hours a week.

42%

of Academy participants reported health care benefits at their current place of employment in 2022.

Over 750 Hours

of direct employment supports to job seekers.

Over 4,600 Hours

of instruction provided to our transition and technology students

50%

of Academy participants in the 2022 survey reported a promotion within or increased responsibilities.

35

The number of Academy participants who reported working at their current job for more than a year.



Some graduates have reported more than 7 years at the current place of employment.

66%

The percentage of Academy participants that attended and graduated from higher education according to a 2022 survey.



CARD-USF COVID-19 RESPONSE

During this reporting period, COVID-19 has still provided many challenges and opportunities for us all. Home visits, school visits, in-person trainings and technical assistance, community partner meetings, conference presentations and public awareness events, as well as our annual fundraising events were still impacted. Despite any interruptions, our focus on creatively providing all of our services and supports remotely or in person yielded not only our succeeding in meeting all of our quarterly deliverables and our mandated fundraising goal for this year, but also creating new activities procedures, and programs that will likely endure.

FUNDRAISING FY 2022 (JULY 2022-JUNE 2023)

Fundraising FY 2023 (July 2022-June 2023)

CARD is responsible for fundraising 2% of its annual budget, per statute. We were able to host the return of our annual signature fundraising event, Fiesta by the Bay for Autism, in October 2023. The Tampa Midtown Rotary supported us with the return of its annual Rotary Cycling for Autism in October 2023.

Large, one-time gifts were made from generous donors to help us exceed our statutory requirement.

Autism Services Fund, Learning Academy Success Fund, Autism Endowment Fund, and Karen A. Berkman Innovation & Autism Fund: FY 23 \$237,317

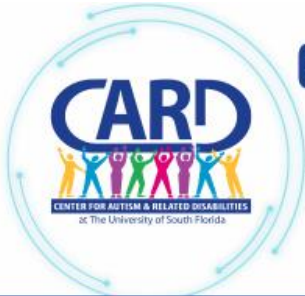
This year, we had the following activities and monies raised:

Major Donors \$196,000

USF Faculty Staff campaign \$3,329

Fiesta by the Bay event, Private, United Way & Corporate Donors \$

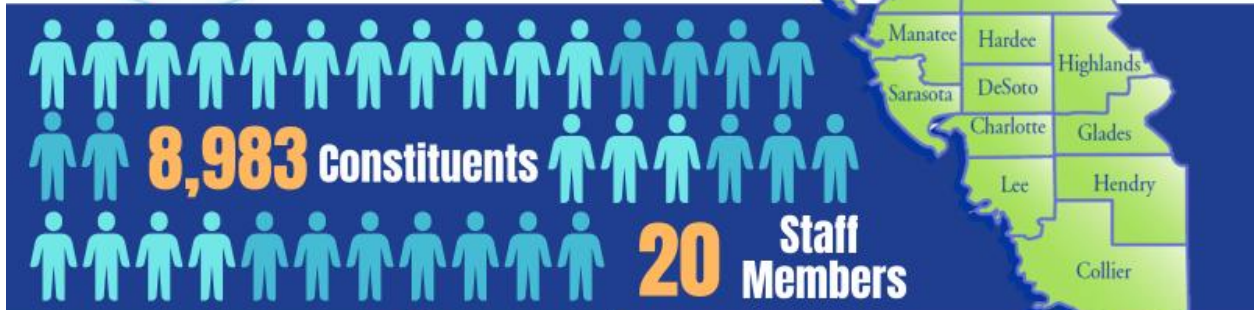
Infographic for annual services:



CENTER FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISABILITIES

2022-2023

CARD is located at the University of South Florida and is funded by the Florida Department of Education. CARD provides training, consultation, and resources to families, professionals, and educators within 14 counties.



Data below captures staff activities during the year that support CARD's direct and technical assistance to families, professionals, and businesses.



Community Data



Digital Data



CENTER FOR AUTISM & RELATED DISABILITIES

<https://usf.to/autism> | 813-974-2532



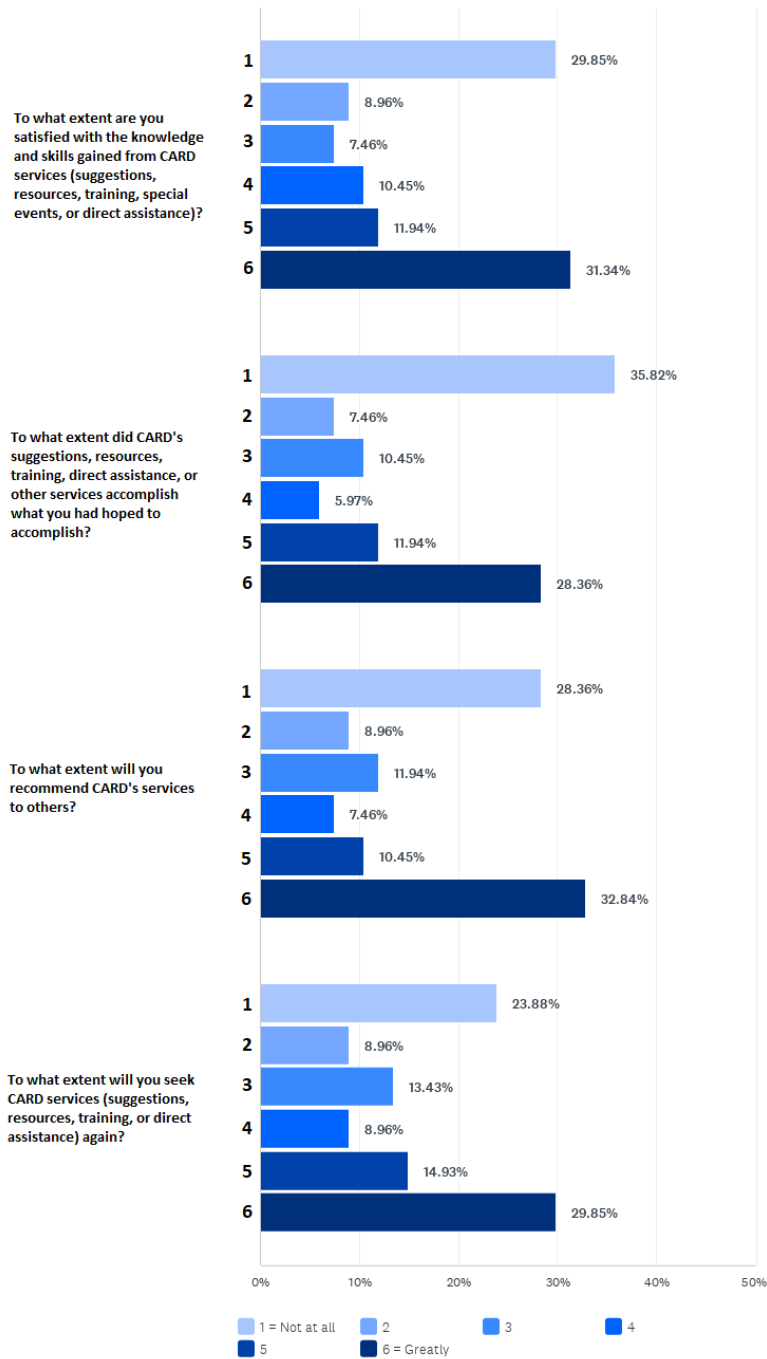
2022-3CARD-USF Annual Caregiver Satisfaction Survey

(NOTE: We believe that our response rates and content continue to reflect survey fatigue post-COVID. Our analysis shows that people are more likely to respond when they are either very satisfied or very dissatisfied (often related to the fact that we do not provide some services that families are seeking, such as autism assessment and therapy.

Therefore the data appears to be skewed to the highly positive and highly negative responses, which we do not believe accurately reflects the full range of experiences and opinions of our constituents as a whole. We continue to examine our process for satisfaction data collection.)

# of Surveys Sent	559	# of Responses Received	67
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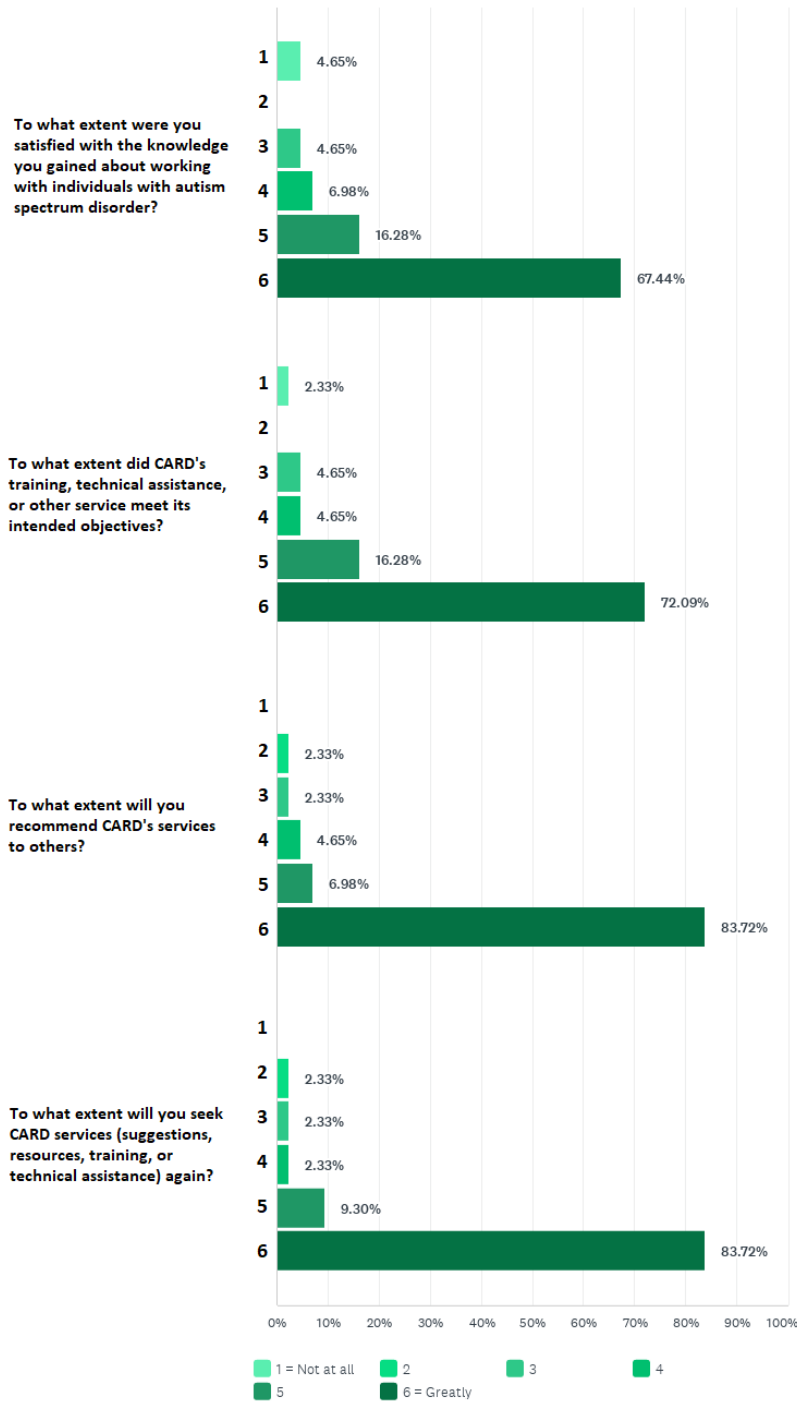
Please rate each statement on the following scale:



2021-2022 CARD-USF Satisfaction Survey for Technical Assistance

# of Surveys Sent	246	# of Responses Received	32
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Please rate each statement on the following scale:



2022-2023 CARD Annual Training Survey

When asked “To what extent did the training increase your knowledge?” 76% of respondents rated either a 5 or 6. For the question “To what extent did the training accomplish what you hoped it would?”, 81% of respondents rated either a 5 or 6. 85% of respondents rated either a 5 or 6 in regards to “To

what extent will you use what you learned in the training?”. Finally, “To what extent will you recommend the training to others?” received a 5 or 6 rating from over 85% of respondents.

Please rate each statement on the following scale:

