

FOUNDED IN 1993

FUNDED BY THE  
FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FOR  
29 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

ONE OF 7 REGIONAL  
AUTISM CENTERS OF  
EXCELLENCE IN FLORIDA


CATCHMENT AREA:  
MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD  
AND MONROE COUNTIES

 **Two main offices** University of Miami - Coral Gables & Nova Southeastern University - Davie); **Three regional branch offices** (Homestead, Miami Lakes, and Miramar)

 **Languages spoken by staff:**  
English, Spanish, Creole

 As of June 30, 2021, **13,823 families** in our region registered for services

 All **services free** of charge to families and community stakeholders

 All services are offered **across the lifespan** allowing for continuity of care

## Supplemental community enrichment programs:

- Autism Multicultural Collective
- The Autism Friendly Initiative including a county-wide program with Miami-Dade County
- Collaborations with partner school districts (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe)
- Summer literacy camp in collaboration with The Children's Trust
- Social opportunity groups for clients of all ages
- Family support groups for all family members
- Employment training programs for job seekers
- All abilities events with community partners
- A comprehensive autism research portfolio focused on genetics, neuroscience, early identification, school-based interventions, and family adaptation and coping



## Core services include:

- Individual client and family support (i.e., services related to a client with autism)
- Programmatic and professional assistance (i.e., services to any program or agency serving people with autism)
- Training (i.e., comprehensive parent, paraprofessional, and professional training; annual statewide conference; summer institutes; regional teacher trainings coordinated with school districts)
- Public education and awareness (i.e., broad community-based autism awareness campaigns)
- UM-NSU CARD provides the State of Florida with a solid return on investment by
  - Promoting early identification and intervention
  - Building capacity in our community by enhancing the availability of evidence-based practices
  - Improving student outcomes by promoting training and consultation in educational best practices
  - Ensuring a sustainable life after school through post secondary initiatives related to employment, health and well-being, and social networking



## UM-NSU CARD and our COVID-19 Response:

- Immediate shift to all virtual services with no disruption
- 28% increase in educational and clinical services with clients and families
- 43% increase in school and community trainings
- Enhanced efforts to serve public, private, and charter schools delivering instruction during the pandemic
- Provided mental health support for clients, families, and professionals coping with the pandemic
- Increased connections with the community through social media engagement using Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Linktree

