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JACKSONVILLE Business Journal

UF to track disability info with CDC grant

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have given researchers at the University of Florida a \$1.6 million grant to establish the Office on Disability and Health at UF, the state's first centralized program to coordinate its disability programs and services.

More than 22 percent of Florida's population reported having a disability, which is above the national average of 19 percent, according to the 2000 US Census.

"Florida has strong disability-related programs, but disability issues are often compartmentalized into groups focused on advocacy, service, health care, Medicaid, education or chronic disease prevention," said [Elena Andresen, director of the Office on Disability and Health](#). "To be effective, all groups need to come to the table with their own expertise."

The Office on Disability and Health at UF will design, implement, monitor and evaluate state and community programs and services for people with disabilities, and will also provide technical assistance and tools for data collection.

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