



PRESS RELEASE  
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### **First Strategic Plan to Focus on Spinal Cord Injury in Florida**

GAINESVILLE, Florida (June 30, 2010) – Florida’s first statewide strategic plan addressing the long-term needs of persons with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) has just been published.

Florida Department of Health, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST), and FAAST Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center contracted WellFlorida Council to conduct research on the resources for and needs of persons with SCI and develop a five-year plan based on those results.

The plan outlines the action steps and resources required to address the most needed services for SCI in Florida:

- Rehabilitation
- Personal care assistance
- Accessible, affordable housing
- Transportation
- Employment or vocational services
- Family/caregiver support services
- Peer support

*Spinal Cord Injury in Florida: Strategic Plan 2010-2015* also calls for a public awareness campaign and maximizing the independence of SCI survivors through the use of assistive technology and education.

“Florida has one of the highest proportions of individuals with disabilities—inclusive of individuals with SCI,” said Steve Howell, Executive Director of FAAST. “I trust that this report will be used to help guide the state and SCI partners to realize the vision of well-coordinated services for individuals with SCI.”

To obtain a copy of the plan visit [www.FAAST.org](http://www.FAAST.org) or call 1-888-788-9216. A fact sheet summarizing the plan, and additional reports on SCI in Florida, are also available to download on the FAAST web site.

WellFlorida’s mission is to forge partnerships in planning, research and service that build healthier communities.

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