



The Arc Gateway
3932 N. 10th Avenue
Pensacola, FL 32503
T 850 434-2638
F 850 438-2180
www.arc-gateway.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christopher Neal
The Arc Gateway
Marketing Manager
850-434-2638
cneal@arc-gateway.org

The Arc Gateway Awarded \$100,000 Florida Blue Grant

PENSACOLA, Fla. (August 27 ,2018) The Arc Gateway is pleased to announce it has received a \$100,000 grant from Florida Blue Foundation to support the Pearl Nelson Child Development Center. The Pearl Nelson Center is the largest early intervention provider in the Pensacola community and provides direct services for children and adolescents with developmental delays and disabilities.

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center has found that early learning experiences are prerequisites for later success in school, the workplace, and the community, and that families benefit from early learning intervention by being better able to meet their children's special needs from an early age and throughout their lives. The Pearl Nelson Center provides speech, occupational physical, and vision therapy as well as developmental instruction. Thanks to the funding from Florida Blue, the Pearl Nelson Center will continue to reduce the long-term impact of a disability and assist each child to improve his or her potential for long-term independence.

"We are so grateful that Florida Blue recognizes the importance of supporting children as early in their lives as possible. And, we are honored that they have entrusted the Pearl Nelson Center to continue to provide life-enhancing services to children in our community," stated Missy Rogers, CEO, The Arc Gateway.

Florida Blue's commitment to making a positive impact in the community is rooted in the company's mission to help people and communities achieve better health. The grant was made from the Florida Blue fund through the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida.

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About The Arc Gateway

The Arc Gateway's purpose is to provide the best possible life experiences for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since 1954, we have been proud to provide life-enhancing programs that help the people we serve realize their dreams. We see the **ability**, not the disability. With the help of our members, supporters and volunteers, we are able to sustain our services and develop innovative ways to help children and adults with developmental disabilities reach their full potential. People with developmental disabilities accomplish great things every day. They are our friends, neighbors and coworkers; and they enrich our community in countless ways.