We Protect and Advance the Legal, Civil, and Human Rights of People with Disabilities in South Carolina

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021-22
Creating Change, Protecting

1056 people trained on disability rights topics

1575 people received information and referral services

AREAS OF ASSISTANCE

- Abuse and Neglect
- Accessibility
- Assistive Technology
- Communication
- Community Integration
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Government Benefits/Services
- Social Security
- Transportation
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Voting

70 inspections of Community Residential Care Facilities

424 people received legal assistance
People, Expanding Equality

96 reviews of representative payees for Social Security complete

42 investigations into complaints of serious abuse and neglect conducted

FINANCIALS 2021-2022

Expenses: $2,516,094

- Administrative: 4%
- Program Expenses: 15%
- Special Events: 1%
- Total: 81%

Total Income: $2,473,587

- DHHS Administration for Community Living: 39%
- DHHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services: 16%
- US Department of Education: 15%
- Other Contracts: 25%
- Social Security Administration: 4%
- Fundraising: 1%

54 institutions and facilities monitored

88 people received short term assistance
Collaborated with Able SC and other disability advocacy organizations to educate lawmakers on three bills to protect and advance the rights of people with disabilities. These bills were passed and signed by Governor McMaster in May:

- **S533: Subminimum Wage Bill**: This bill prohibits using the Fair Labors Act of 1938 to pay subminimum wages to people with disabilities.
- **H3244: Employment First Initiative Act**: This bill establishes an Employment First task force for South Carolina, addressing how to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **H4597: Organ Transplant and Nondiscrimination in Access**: This bill protects an individual with a disability seeking an organ transplant from being discriminated against, including ensuring appropriate accommodations for the individual.

Published a new comprehensive guide on Assistance Animals in South Carolina.

Collaborated with partners to form the SC Disability Vaccine Access Network to educate individuals in the disability community about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, provide help to overcome barriers to getting vaccinated, and to help those who want to get vaccinated.

Conducted a systemic investigation into allegations of abuse and neglect at Pee Dee Regional Center, an intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF/IID). A written report of our findings were sent to the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) and its Commission. DDSN issued a written response to our report.

Collaborated with the Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH), to conduct a comprehensive review of South Carolinas compliance of the Supreme Court’s Olmstead Decision. A report with recommendations to increase community integration will be published in February 2023.

Created a webinar series called DRSC University offering free disability rights self-advocacy training to the community.

Collaborated with NAMI to train law enforcement regarding the legal rights of people with mental illness and other disabilities.

Collaborated with private attorneys, and public interest organizations to bring separate lawsuits in federal court against the Department of Juvenile Justice and Richland County, alleging that the extremely poor conditions in their correction facilities violated the constitutional rights of the people with serious mental illness and other disabilities that are detained there.