



# DISABILITY RIGHTS

SOUTH CAROLINA



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

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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

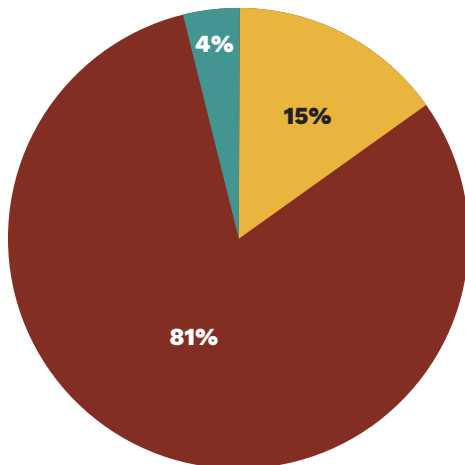


42

investigations  
into complaints  
of serious  
abuse and  
neglect conducted

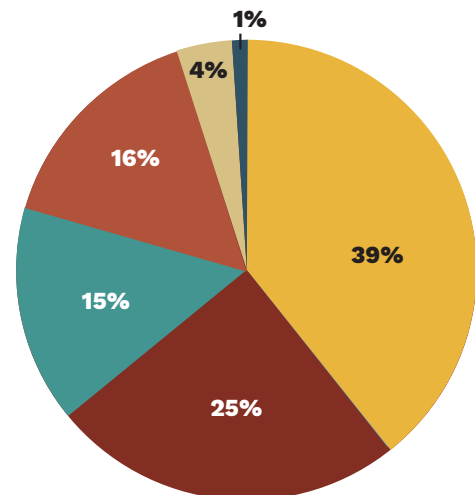
## FINANCIALS 2021-2022

### Expenses: \$2,516,094



- Administrative
- Program Expenses
- Special Events

### Total Income: \$2,473,587



- DHHS Administration for Community Living
- Social Security Administration
- DHHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
- Other Contracts
- US Department of Education
- Fundraising

54

institutions and  
facilities  
monitored



88

people received  
short term  
assistance



# DISABILITY RIGHTS SOUTH CAROLINA

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **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.

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