



Appendix 0.4

Disability Organizations

Engaging your local disability community is integral to improving accessibility at your organization. This document outlines several types of disability organizations and names specific organizations that could be engaged to connect with people with disabilities in your community.

Federally Funded

ADA National Network: 10 regional centers funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) that provide technical assistance, training, referrals, and accessibility assessments on how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Find your region [here](#).

Centers for Independent Living (CILs): Community-based, cross-disability, non-residential private nonprofit organizations that are designed and operated by people with disabilities. They are federally and state-funded and provide core services including advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, peer support, and assistance in accessing community resources. Their goal is to help people with disabilities achieve greater independence and full community participation. Find a CIL in your area [here](#).

Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As): Nation's largest provider of legal advocacy services for people with disabilities. Often provide information and referrals, as well as training and technical assistance to service providers, state legislators, and other policymakers. They also conduct self-advocacy training and raise public awareness of legal and social issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Find your state P&A Agency [here](#).

State Commissions for the Blind: State-level agencies dedicated to empowering individuals who are legally blind or visually impaired through vocational rehabilitation, independent living support, and advocacy for equitable opportunities. Their services vary by state but share common goals of fostering independence and societal integration. Find your state's commission [here](#).

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities: Federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their state or territory. Councils work to address identified needs through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building. Find your state's council [here](#).

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD): Advance knowledge, provide support, and promote the rights and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities through interdisciplinary approaches combining research, education, and direct services. Find UCEDDs in your state [here](#).

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

Blinded Veterans Association: Only congressionally chartered VSO created for, consisting of, and led by visually impaired veterans focused on the issues, advocacy, and mentorship vital to all veterans and families with sight loss regardless of service connection.

Disabled American Veterans: Provides free, professional assistance to veterans and their families with Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, in addition to conducting outreach, advocating for policy change at the federal, state, and local levels, facilitating a support program for caregivers, and sharing resources.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA): VSO dedicated to helping veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D), including MS and ALS. Provide caregiver support, legal services, medical services from nurses, physicians, and support staff trained on SCI/D, employment resources, assistance with benefits, and adaptive sports.

Examples of National Organizations

Across Disabilities

- [American Association on Health and Disability \(AAHD\)](#)
- [American Association of People with Disabilities \(AAPD\)](#)
- [The Arc \(I/DD\)](#)
- [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#)
- [Disability Belongs](#)
- [Disabled in Action \(DIA\)](#)
- [Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund \(DREDF\)](#)
- [Easterseals](#)
- [National Council on Independent Living \(NCIL\)](#)
- [National Disability Rights Network](#)
- [People First \(I/DD\)](#)

Professional Societies

- [Alliance for Disability in Healthcare Education](#)
- [Patient Provider Communication Network](#)
- [Docs with Disabilities Initiative](#)

Disability-Specific

- [American Foundation for the Blind \(AFB\)](#)
- [Amputee Coalition](#)
- [Autistic Self Advocacy Network \(ASAN\)](#)
- [CommunicationFIRST](#)
- [Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

- [Les Turner ALS Foundation](#)
- [Muscular Dystrophy Association \(MDA\)](#)
- [National Association of the Deaf](#)
- [National Down Syndrome Society](#)
- [National Federation of the Blind \(NFB\)](#)
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [United Cerebral Palsy \(UCP\)](#)
- [United Spinal Association](#)