

## ***Starting Points***

There are many local resources for people with disabilities and their families that LPA members may find helpful to contact when needing assistance to access healthcare, education, employment, and assistive technology. Below is information on places to start when seeking out information. All of these organizations receive federal and/or state funds to serve as resource for people with disabilities. This is not meant to be an all inclusive list of disability related resources; rather it is a list of places to call first.

Also, all of these resources have “canned” presentations that should be willing to come to regionals and present on.

**Local Centers for Independent Living** (referred to as CILs or ILCs depending on location) can assist with a variety of services including advocacy, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and information and referral to other agencies.

A list of locations across the country is at:

<http://www.bcm.edu/ilru/html/publications/directory/index.html>

**Assistance with Social Security (SSI/SSDI) and other benefits:**

If someone needs info on how going to work will impact SSI/SSDI benefits, WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance) programs provide a detailed analysis of options.

Local contacts and more information can be found at:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/ServiceProviders/WIPADirectory.html>

Some states have Disability Benefits Specialists that will help people navigate the application and appeals process for SSI/SSDI. Some Disability Program Navigators, who are housed in One Stop Job Centers, can assist with this as well. The local Center for Independent living would know about programs in their area.

There are programs that allow people with disabilities who would be medically eligible but who are currently working to buy-in to state medicaid insurance programs

<http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/buyin.htm>

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Questions:**

**Employment, physical access to buildings, discrimination, etc.**

Regional Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers “DBTACs” which “provides information, training, and technical assistance to employers, people with disabilities, and other entities with responsibilities under the ADA. The centers act as a “one-stop” central, comprehensive resource on ADA issues in employment, public services, public accommodations, and communications.”

A list of the regional centers is at: <http://www.adata.org/>

**Assistive Technology:** “State Assistive Technology Act programs work to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance. Additionally, the programs support activities designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, and advocates to access and obtain

assistive technology devices and services.” Remember that Assistive Technology can be also be “low tech” devices to assist with daily tasks. IATP and Centers for Independent Living also has an accessibility loan closets to try out things before you purchase.

<http://www.resna.org/content/index.php?pid=133>

**Parent Training and Information Centers/ Special Education Resources:** “Parent Training and Information Centers serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities. They help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities; work to improve education results for all children; train and inform parents and professionals on a variety of topics; resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies; and connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs.” A listing of centers in each state is at: <http://www.taalliance.org/ptidirectory/pclist.asp>

For help with medical issues with children, states have grants from the feds for “Children with Special Health Care Needs” centers (they may have different names in different states) For contacts, go to:

[https://perfddata.hrsa.gov/mchb/mchreports/link/state\\_links.asp](https://perfddata.hrsa.gov/mchb/mchreports/link/state_links.asp) and use the pull down menu to select a state and look for CSHCN Contact.