

Directory of Community-Based Organizations Serving People with Disabilities



The 54 million people with disabilities currently living in the United States experience numerous health disparities, yet receive fewer preventative services and have poorer health status than people without disabilities.^{1,2} Therefore, local health departments (LHDs) must include people with disabilities as a population when considering public health intervention strategies.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) promotes **inclusion and engagement** of people with disabilities in planning, implementing, and evaluating public health programs, products, and services. With support from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NACCHO developed the following directory of community-based disability organizations to support and encourage LHDs to collaborate with disability organizations in their respective communities. This directory provides an overview of these organizations, the populations they serve and support, ways the organizations can complement LHD efforts, and links to websites that provide information about local affiliates/chapters in various jurisdictions. NACCHO selected the organizations listed within because they were nationally recognized disability organizations, had local chapters nationwide, and provided services to persons with various types of disabilities. While this directory is not exhaustive, it illustrates how LHDs can collaborate with community-based disability organizations.

People with disabilities and community-based organizations can support and offer expertise to LHDs in numerous ways, including the following:

- Improving **accessibility** to buildings and other space for people with disabilities;
- Developing methods to **screen** for chronic diseases among people with disabilities;
- Increasing **health literacy** and accessibility of health information for people with disabilities;
- Including people with disabilities in the development of **emergency preparedness** plans and exercises;

Significant health disparities exist for persons with disabilities, including the following:

- Adults with disabilities are 58 percent more likely to be obese;³
- Children and adolescents with disabilities are 38 percent more likely to be obese;⁴
- Cigarette smoking is significantly higher among adults with a disability (25.4%) compared to adults without a disability (17.3%);⁵
- Fewer women with disabilities have mammograms as recommended than women without disabilities;⁶ and
- People with disabilities are not consistently included in pre-disaster emergency planning.⁷

- Developing general and worksite **health promotion** programs for organizations that support people with disabilities;
- Conducting **environmental health** scans and developing strategies to reduce environmental toxins;
- **Training** healthcare professionals about the particular needs of people with disabilities; and
- Creating programs for **preventing diseases** such as brain injuries or birth defects.

In addition to the community-based organizations listed in the following table, numerous disability organizations and service providers exist in local jurisdictions, including the following:

- Residential Habilitation Homes (e.g., group homes, supported housing);
- Day Training and Habilitation Centers (e.g., vocational training centers, job coaching);
- Advocacy Groups;
- Support Groups; and
- Activity Clubs.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Organization	Program Areas							
Name of organization (listed alphabetically); description of services provided, population served, and number of states with local chapters; and links to main website and local affiliates/chapters	Accessibility	Health Screening	Health Literacy	Emergency Preparedness	Health Promotion	Environmental Health	Training	Disease Prevention
<p>American Council of the Blind (ACB)</p> <p>ACB tracks and advocates on national, state, and local issues related to individuals that are blind or have visual impairments. ACB has over 70 state chapters or special interest affiliates across the country.</p> <p>Website: http://www.acb.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: https://acb.org/affiliate-resources</p>	✓		✓	✓				
<p>The Arc*</p> <p>Although every chapter of The Arc may differ, most chapters provide an array of support services for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities in areas related to legislative advocacy, employment, transportation, housing, health promotion, inclusion in the community, and access to medical care. The ARC has nearly 700 chapters throughout all 50 states and Washington, DC.</p> <p>Website: http://www.thearc.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.thearc.org/find-a-chapter</p>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<p>Autism Society</p> <p>Autism Society provides information, referrals, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by autism. One initiative focuses on improving environmental health and reducing toxic substances in the environment. Numerous Autism Societies exist throughout the country.</p> <p>Website: www.autism-society.org</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.autism-society.org/about-the-autism-society/affiliate-network/</p>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
<p>Brain Injury Association of America*</p> <p>The Brain Injury Association raises awareness of brain injuries and provides resources, education, and advocacy to advance brain injury prevention, research, and treatment. Chapters exist in numerous states throughout the country.</p> <p>Website: http://www.biausa.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.biausa.org/state-affiliates.htm</p>					✓		✓	✓

* Indicates organizations that have people with disabilities in leadership positions.

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<p>Centers on Independent Living (CIL)*</p> <p>CIL chapters are run primarily by people with disabilities and offer services that encourage independence, provide peer-led support, and legal aid services to people with disabilities. Each CIL chapter may provide a wide array of services to address issues of discrimination, housing accessibility, and community awareness about disability issues. CIL chapters exist in nearly every state.</p> <p>Website: http://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://bit.ly/11CJW5E</p>	✓				✓		✓	
<p>Easter Seals</p> <p>Easter Seals offers a variety of services that are available to children and adults with disabilities. Depending on the local chapter, these services may include child development centers, adult job training centers, medical rehabilitation centers, in-home support to older adults, and recreation services. Easter Seals has numerous chapters in nearly every state.</p> <p>Website: http://www.easterseals.com/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.easterseals.com/connect-locally</p>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
<p>Family Voices (Family-to-Family Health Information Centers)</p> <p>Family-to-Family Health Information Centers are organizations in the community that provide support, information, resources, and training to parents and caregivers to help them access appropriate healthcare for their children with disabilities. Family-to-Family affiliates are in every state.</p> <p>Website: http://familyvoices.org/ncfpp/f2fs/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://familyvoices.org/ncfpp/</p>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
<p>Goodwill, Inc.</p> <p>Goodwill is an international organization that provides job training and employment assistance to persons with disabilities. Goodwill has numerous stores in nearly every state.</p> <p>Website: http://www.goodwill.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.goodwill.org/locator/</p>		✓			✓			

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<p>March of Dimes</p> <p>March of Dimes supports pregnant women and mothers of small children. March of Dimes develops and implements education and health campaigns related to the prevention of premature birth defects and other infant health problems. March of Dimes has chapters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Website: http://www.marchofdimes.com/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.marchofdimes.com/contact-us.aspx</p>		✓			✓			
<p>Meals On Wheels</p> <p>Meals On Wheels provides nutrition programs to seniors living in a senior center or at home. Meals on Wheels has at least one chapter in all 50 states and Washington, DC.</p> <p>Website: https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/find-meals</p>	✓			✓	✓			
<p>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)</p> <p>NAMI is mental health organization that supports persons affected by mental illness including friends or family members of a person with a mental illness. NAMI advocates for improving the mental health system, raises awareness about mental illnesses, and offers support groups. More than 1,000 NAMI affiliates exist in all 50 states.</p> <p>Website: http://www.nami.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: https://www.nami.org/Find-Support</p>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
<p>National Association of the Deaf (NAD)</p> <p>NAD increases awareness of the rights to equal opportunities for individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing through information resources and legislative advocacy. NAD has one affiliate organization in all 50 states. Additionally, numerous other organizations are affiliated with NAD.</p> <p>Website: http://www.nad.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.nad.org/community/state-association-affiliates http://www.nad.org/affiliates</p>	✓		✓	✓			✓	

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<p>National Disability Rights Network</p> <p>National Disability Rights Network organizations provide legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities. These services are for a variety of legal issues including access to appropriate healthcare, access to mental health services, and adequate receipt of food, clothing, and healthcare.</p> <p>Website: http://www.ndrn.org/index.php</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.ndrn.org/en/ndrn-member-agencies.html</p>	✓			✓				
<p>National Federation of the Blind (NFB)</p> <p>NFB provides advocacy, education, and technology training programs to individuals that are blind or are losing their vision. NFB has over 700 chapters in all 50 states including Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Website: http://www.nfb.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: https://nfb.org/state-and-local-organizations</p>	✓		✓	✓				
<p>National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society</p> <p>The National MS Society provides information and advocacy resources to individuals with MS. The National MS Society provides specific information about holistic health for individuals with MS. MS Society chapters exist in numerous states throughout the country.</p> <p>Website: http://www.nationalmssociety.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters</p>	✓				✓			
<p>Special Olympics</p> <p>Special Olympics provides adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) the opportunities to participate regularly in sporting activities. The organization also leads an initiative to reduce health disparities for persons with IDD. Special Olympic chapters in nearly every state are partnering with local health professional organizations and practitioners to increase accessibility of both healthcare and health information for persons with IDD.</p> <p>Website: http://www.specialolympics.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://www.specialolympics.org/program_locator.aspx</p>		✓	✓		✓		✓	

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<p>United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)</p> <p>UCP supports individuals with cerebral palsy through advocacy and public education. UCP also has a unique program that funds innovative technology projects that improve accessibility and support the well-being of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Website: http://www.ucp.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: https://ucp.org/find-us/</p>	✓		✓		✓			
<p>United States Brain Injury Alliance</p> <p>The United States Brain Injury Alliance provides education and advocacy on issues related to the prevention of brain injuries and support of individuals that have acquired a brain injury. Brain Injury Alliances exist in approximately 20 states.</p> <p>Website: http://www.usbia.org/</p> <p>Local Affiliates/Chapters: http://usbia.org/about/</p>			✓		✓			✓

References

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The National Connection for Local Public Health



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments.

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