

Identifying Disability Partners



Identifying Disability Partners in Your Community

The disability community is a diverse community. There are organizations that support individuals with different types of disabilities; some focus on employment for persons with disabilities while others may focus on community living.

Bringing key stakeholders together can assist in the design and implementation of financial inclusion programs for persons with disabilities. These stakeholders can identify the needs of the disability community, gain buy-in, support program design, create opportunities for blending and braiding resources and help market the program to its target audience. If the local community has a Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities (MOPD) or an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) office, these offices can be key partners for collaboration and can provide guidance on disability partners to engage. If financial empowerment activities are currently taking place within a community, it is important to also include those partners as key stakeholders.

This quick reference guide will help you identify the groups in your area and provide a brief list of potential groups for engagement in the convening of key stakeholders.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Disability Community Partners

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

Assists individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. To find a local Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) office, visit:

askjan.org/concerns/State-Vocational-Rehabilitation-Agencies.cfm

American Job Centers

American Job Centers (AJCs) provide individuals with a full range of services for job seekers under one roof. To find a local office, visit the American Job Centers website:

bit.ly/AmericanJobCenters-Help

Employment Networks

Beneficiaries who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and are 18 to 64 years of age, can choose an Employment Network (EN) to explore opportunities to further their education and work options while using the work supports related to SSI and/or SSDI. To locate local Employment Networks, visit the Ticket to Work website:

choosework.ssa.gov

Centers for Independent Living

Many communities have a local Center for Independent Living (CIL) that provides information and referral services to persons with disabilities that help them live within their community as independently as possible. To find a local office, visit the National Council on Independent Living website: ncil.org

📍 If you need assistance in identifying local partners in your community, please send a request to ask@ndi-inc.org



Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Programs

Social Security Administration funds over 80 programs across the country called Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects that provide benefits counseling to persons with disabilities. To find a Work Incentive Planning Assistance project, visit the Ticket to Work Find Help webpage: choosework.ssa.gov

In addition to the organizations and agencies listed previously, there are some organizations that provide support to persons with a specific disability. A sample of those organizations include the following:

The Arc

The Arc supports persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and has locations across the country. To learn more about The Arc, visit: www.thearc.org

National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS)

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) is the leading human rights organization for individuals with Down Syndrome. To learn more about NDSS, visit: www.ndss.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. To learn more about NAMI, visit: www.nami.org

National Association of the Deaf

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in the United States. To learn more about NAD, visit: www.nad.org

American Council of the Blind

The American Council of the Blind strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity and quality of life for all blind and visually impaired people. To learn more about the American Council of the Blind, visit: www.acb.org

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

VA provides assistance in serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans. To learn more, visit: www.VA.gov

United Spinal Association

United Spinal Association is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) thru resources, guidance, peer support and community. Visit: www.unitedspinal.org