

Section 3: Federal, State, and Community Resources

Disability Info	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide quick and easy access to information about disability programs, services, laws and benefits.</p>	<p>Contact Information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.disabilityinfo.gov</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>Disability Info is a comprehensive online resource designed to access to disability-related information and programs available across the government on numerous subjects including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, housing, health, technology and transportation.</p>	

Government Benefits	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide citizens with one, easily accessible source for government benefit and assistance information.</p>	<p>Contact Information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.benefits.gov/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>An individual can utilize this website to receive information regarding many government benefits, such as, housing, financial assistance, education/training, grants and scholarships, etc. A person may answer a list of questions to determine his/her potential eligibility and receive a customized report detailing the programs he/she may be eligible to receive and information on how to apply.</p>	

Social Security Administration	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To help individuals with disabilities and elderly individuals receive financial aid.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">315 Pelham Road Greenville, SC 29615 (864)233-8110 www.socialsecurity.gov</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>The Social Security Administration's mission is to advance the economic security of the nation's people through compassionate and vigilant leadership in shaping and managing America's Social Security programs. For a list of programs that may be beneficial to you, please contact your local office.</p>	

Social Security Administration's Plan to Achieve Self-Sufficiency	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>A plan designed to help individuals return to work by letting them set aside money and/or things they own to help achieve a work goal.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Atlanta Region PASS Cadre Social Security Administration SEPS/ICT PASS Cadre PO Box 830684 Birmingham, AL 35283-0684 Toll Free: 1-800-254-9489 Fax: 205-801-3367 www.socialsecurity.gov</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>A plan designed to help individuals return to work by letting them set aside money and/or things they own to help achieve a work goal. Under standard Supplemental Security Income rules, other income declared reduces the SSI payment. Under a PASS, you can declare that additional income to go towards your PASS account and this will not reduce your SSI payment. The money set aside in the PASS account can be used towards achieving a reasonable work goal (i.e. pay for transportation, purchase an adapted vehicle, buy supplies for self-employment, etc). Please contact the Atlanta Region PASS Cadre office for more information.</p>	

Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To increase beneficiary choice for employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, and other support services.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Information:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social Security's Program Manager MAXIMUS Social Security Administration Toll Free: 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-YOURTICKET TTY: 1-866-833-2967 or 1-866-TDD2WORK www.yourtickettowork.com</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>A beneficiary can use their ticket (it is a physical ticket disbursed by the program) to receive employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services in their area. The beneficiary will assign their ticket to an Employment Network (EN) or State voc-rehab agency. There is no time limit for using the ticket. The employment agreement can be terminated by the individual OR the Employment Network. A new EN or State voc-rehab agency can be chosen at any time. Contact MAXIMUS for a list of employment networks and/or voc-rehab agencies in your area.</p>	

United States Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide assistance to individuals with disabilities or low incomes conserve and save on energy costs.	Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity 1205 Pendleton Street Edgar A. Brown Building, 3rd Floor Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-0662 Fax: (803) 734-0356
Explanation:	
<p>Through this program, weatherization service providers install energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge. These are not expensive upgrades—the average expenditure limit is \$2,826 per home—but they are effective, and energy savings pay for the upgrades within a few years. DOE documents the savings and compares them against costs, so that over the years it can determine the efficacy of these measures. Weatherization has helped spawn an energy efficiency industry for residential housing. This industry today employs 8,000 people who work in low-income weatherization alone, and many times that number work in companies that help homeowners increase their energy efficiency through low-cost measures. Many of the techniques that are today standard procedure in this industry were first developed and tested by the Weatherization Program. And through weatherization, DOE continues to develop and test in the field new advances in home energy science. DOE provides funding and technical guidance to the states, but the states run their own programs and set rules for issues such as eligibility. They also select service providers, which are usually nonprofit agencies that serve families in their communities, and review their performance for quality. Together, this group of more than 900 agencies makes up a nationwide weatherization network. For a complete list of program benefits, see the fact sheet published by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) titled <i>Weatherization Works!</i> (PDF 329 KB).</p>	

U.S. Department of Justice—Civil Rights Division/Disability Rights Section ADA Information Line	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide assistance and understanding of the American with Disabilities Act.	950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20530 (202) 307-2227 Fax: (202) 307-1198 Toll Free: 1-800-514-0301 TTD: 1-800-514-0383 www.ada.gov/infoline.htm
Explanation:	
<p>ADA Information Line provides technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA for accessible design and other ADA provisions applying to business, nonprofit service agencies and state and local government programs; also provides information on how to file ADA complaints.</p>	

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Office of Communications & Legislative Affairs	
Purpose:	Contact:
To create and implement equal employment opportunity policy and laws to eliminate discrimination.	1801 L Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20507 (202) 663-4900 Fax: (202) 663-4912 Toll Free: 1-800-669-4000 TTY: 1-800-669-6820 Email: eeocolc@capcon.net www.eeoc.gov
Explanation:	
US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Office of Communications & Legislative Affairs enforces Title I provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibiting discrimination in employment against qualified individuals with disabilities; investigates charges of discrimination on the basis of disability.	

World Institute on Disability	
Purpose:	Contact:
To strengthen the disability movement through research, training, advocacy and public education.	http://www.wid.org/
Explanation:	
The World Institute on Disability is an internationally recognized public policy center organized by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1983 by leaders of the Independent Living Movement, WID's work focuses on issues and problems that directly affect people's ability to live full and independent lives. WID's programs address employment, economic development and financial stability issues; conduct research and policy analysis on personal assistance services, accessible health care, technology and other topics; and provide assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and disabled leaders in developing countries.	

Benefit Bank of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact Information:
	MJ Maurer, Director of Training The Benefit Bank at the SC Office of Rural Health 107 Saluda Pointe Drive Lexington, SC 29072 Phone: 800-726-8774 or 803-454-3850 x 2017 Fax: 803-454-3860 http://www.thebenefitbank.com/SouthCarolina
Explanation:	
The South Carolina Office of Rural Health has been working to improve the health status of rural and underserved people throughout the state of South Carolina. The Benefit Bank is a one-stop location for individuals to inquire about benefits they are eligible to receive and information on how to apply. The benefits supported through the Benefit Bank include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food assistance • Medicaid • Prescription Drug Programs • Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program • Property and Rent Rebates • State Childrens Health Insurance Program • Free Application for Federal Student Aid 	

Disabilities Coalition of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To educate the community, local and state officials and to advocate for people with disabilities and their families.	1787 Hillsboro Road Orangeburg, SC 29115 (803) 531-3376 Fax: (803) 531-3376 Email: charlesm@oburg.net
Explanation:	
A statewide membership organization for people and organizations concerned with people who have disabilities and their families; educates public officials and advocates on behalf of people with disabilities and promotes communication and coordination among members.	

DisabilityResources.org	
Purpose:	Contact Information:
Reference tool for regional resources.	http://www.disabilityresources.org/SOUTH-CAROLINA.html
Explanation:	
DisabilityResources.org maintains a reference site for regional resources within the state of South Carolina.	

Easter Seals Society of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide persons with disabilities with rehabilitation and related services.	3020 Farrow Road Columbia, SC 29203-7099 (803) 765-9765 Fax: (803) 765-9765 Toll Free: 1-800-951-4090 Email: mail@easterseals.org http://sc.easterseals.com
Explanation:	
Easter Seals is a private, non-profit health agency that provides or purchases rehabilitation and related services for persons with physical disabilities; Services may include physical, occupational, or speech therapy, durable medical equipment, orthotics and prosthetics. Services may also include early intervention, "Kids Are Riding Safely" program, equipment loan program and information and referral. Each center provides top-quality, family-focused and innovative services tailored to meet the specific needs of the particular community it serves. Easter Seals also advocates for the passage of legislation to help people with disabilities achieve independence, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Passed in 1990, the ADA prohibits discrimination against anyone who has a mental or physical disability, guaranteeing the civil rights of people with disabilities.	

Governor's Office, Client Assistance Program (CAP)	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To advocate and protect individuals with disabilities from abuse, neglect and other violations.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)734-0285 Fax: (803) 734-0546 TTY: (803) 734-1147 Toll Free: 1-800-868-0040 www.oepp.sc.gov/cap</p>
Explanation:	
<p>CAP investigates consumer complaints regarding state government agencies; advocates for children's affairs and administers the Client Assistance Program. The Client Assistance Program (CAP) ensures rights for persons accessing or receiving services from the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Commission for the Blind and Independent Living Programs.</p>	

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To assist individuals with low income to save money.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>www.cfed.org</p>
Explanation:	
<p>IDAs are matched savings accounts that enable low-income American families to save, build assets, and enter the financial mainstream. IDAs reward the monthly savings of working-poor families who are building towards purchasing an asset - most commonly buying their first home, paying for post-secondary education, or starting a small business. IDAs make it possible for low-income families to build the financial assets they need to achieve the American Dream.</p> <p>The match incentive - similar to an employer match for 401(k) contributions - is provided through a variety of government and private sector sources. Organizations that operate IDA programs often couple the match incentive with financial literacy education, training to purchase their asset, and case management. Search the IDA Directory from the website above to local an organization in your area.</p>	

Lt. Governor's Office on Aging/SC Access	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide information to individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>1301 Gervais Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-9900 Toll Free: (803) 868-9095 Email: scaccess@aging.sc.gov www.scaccesshelp.org</p>
Explanation:	
<p>To help older adults, people with disabilities, and those who care for them access useful information about long-term support and needed services. Through the use of a comprehensive Web-based service directory and Regional information and Referral Specialists, individuals are able to find options for care throughout South Carolina to enable them to live as independently as possible.</p>	

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide Medicaid services and healthcare to families, children, the elderly and people with disabilities and illnesses.	1801 Main Street P.O. Box 8206 Columbia, SC 29202-8206 (803) 898-2500 Fax: (803) 898-4515 Toll Free: 1-888-549-0820 Email: adams@dhhs.state.sc.us www.dhhs.state.sc.us
Explanation:	
<p>DHHS administers the Medicaid program for South Carolina; emphasizes Community Long Term Care (CLTC) for home and community based health care for the elderly, people with disabilities, and persons with HIV/AIDS. DHHS administers the Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) waiver and the Head and Spinal Cord Injured (HASCI) waiver that is operated by the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN). DHHS is the lead agency for the ABC Child Care Voucher system, which provides financial assistance to eligible families who need child care. The Bureau of Community Services is a separate program under DHHS that administers the HIV/AIDS waiver, ventilator dependent waiver, elderly/disabled waiver, head/spinal cord waiver, mental retardation/related disabilities waiver; bureau helps to oversee enrollment of providers and nursing homes in conjunction with the state attorney general's office, and other state and federal departments, and investigates complaints of fraud and abuse. DHHS reimburses for various mental health services and providers for those clients having Medicaid coverage. DHHS partners with the Department of Education and provides reimbursement for speech, occupational, and physical therapy offered in the school setting for those students who are Medicaid eligible. DHHS strives to ensure that Medicaid eligible children receive Early Periodic Screening Testing and Diagnosis and well child physician visits. DHHS also offers the South Carolina Services Information System (SCSIS), which is an information and referral system for seniors over 60 and persons with disabilities. For more information and to find your local DHHS office, please contact the number above.</p>	

South Carolina Department of Social Services—TEFRA Medical Support	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide healthcare for children with chronic illnesses and disabilities/special needs.	P.O. Box 8206 Columbia, SC 29202 1-888-549-0820 www.dhhs.state.sc.us
Explanation:	
<p>Some children with disabilities may receive benefits under the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA). TEFRA is an amendment to the South Carolina State Medicaid program. Additionally, all functions related to the Medicaid programs are now housed with the Department of Health and Human Services. If approved for TEFRA / "Katie Beckett" your child will be covered by the same health insurance package that is available to all Medicaid eligible children through other partners for Health programs such as Partners for Healthy Children, or as a benefit for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients.</p>	

South Carolina Health Insurance Pool—Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide people who are unable to get private health insurance, medical and health insurance coverage.	P.O. Box 61153 Columbia, SC 29260 (803) 788-0222 Toll Free: 1-800-868-2500 ext. 46401
Explanation:	
<p>For people unable to get private health insurance coverage now have the opportunity through the SC Health Insurance Pool. Coverage is available for people who have been state residents for at least thirty days and meet the following criteria: They were turned down for private health insurance coverage for health reason; or they were accepted for private health insurance, but have existing illnesses or conditions excluded from coverage, and have had these conditions for more than 12 months; or they are paying other health insurance premiums that are costlier than the premium levels established when the Pool was created. Other eligibility requirements may also apply. Pool benefits are comparable to many private insurance company plans. The Pool covers a percentage of allowed charges for covered hospital inpatient and outpatient treatment, physician services, certain other medical care and prescription drugs. Persons covered by the Pool pay the remaining percentage and must meet a deductible. Monthly premiums are determined by the person's age and sex. There is no family coverage under the Pool. Each policy is for individual coverage. As administrator, Blue Cross and Blue Shield processes claims, determines eligibility and handles all services required to operate the Pool.</p>	

Best Buddies @ USC	
Purpose:	Contact:
To enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.	www.bestbuddies.org
Explanation:	
<p>Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization which engages participants in each of the fifty states. Best Buddies will positively impact more than 350,000 individuals this year. Best Buddies @ USC pairs college students with adults who have intellectual disabilities.</p>	

The Cooperative Ministry	
Purpose:	Contact Information:
To assist individuals and families in Columbia and surrounding communities in financial and spiritual crisis and help them regain their independence.	The Cooperate Ministry 3821 West Beltline Boulevard Columbia, SC 29204 803-799-3853 Fax: 803-252-8621 Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm
Explanation:	
<p>The cooperative ministry is a faith-based, non-profit group that provides fast access to emergency assistance and community resources in Columbia, South Carolina and the midland communities. The ministry helps the community's working poor and needy regain independence through a coordinated effort that includes over 100 partnering agencies and Midlands religious congregations. Our goal is to help our community so we work hard to keep our expenses low and provide the fastest access possible to those in need.</p>	

Urban League of the Upstate

Purpose:

To assist potential homeowners find resources regarding housing, loans and grants.

Contact:

Regional Office

15 Regency Hill Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
(864) 244-3862

Fax: (864) 244-6134

Spartanburg Office

201 Caulder Ave # 220
Spartanburg, SC 29306
(864) 562-4400

Fax: (864) 562-4403

<http://www.urbanleagueoftheupstate.org>

Explanation:

As a HUD approved counseling entity, HSS offers services that enable residents of the Upstate to make informed decisions regarding their housing needs and goals. The primary component of this program is comprehensive housing counseling - which includes homebuyer education, post purchase counseling, financial literacy training and home maintenance classes. HSS also provides limited financial assistance for those in need. Through this program, the Urban League operates and manages fifty-nine units of safe, decent affordable housing for senior citizens. The Urban League also assists with Individual Development Accounts (IDA). IDAs allow an individual to save money for homeownership by matching his/her savings \$2.00 for every \$1.00 up to \$2,000.