

Section 7: Advocacy and Informational Resources

ARC of South Carolina	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To advocate for people with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">806 12th Street West Columbia, SC 29169 (803) 748-5020 Toll free: 1-866-300-9331 Fax: (803) 750-8121 Email: thearcofsc@yahoo.com www.arcsc.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>The ARC of South Carolina is a non-profit, grassroots organization that advocates for and alongside people with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The organization is affiliated with The ARC of the United States, which advocates for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. Contact the phone number listed above to find your local chapter.</p>	

ARC of the United States	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>Community based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1010 Wayne Avenue Suite 650 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 565-3842 Fax: (301) 565-3843 Toll free: 1-800-433-5255 Email: info@thearc.org www.thearc.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>ARC of the United States is a national advocacy organization that provides information, training, and support for children and adults with disabilities. The ARC is devoted to promoting and improving supports and services for all people with disabilities.</p>	

Association for Children with Down Syndrome	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To provide resources and information to families of children with Down Syndrome and other disabilities, as well as young adults and their families.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Fern Place Plainview, NY 11803 (516) 933-4700 Fax: (516) 932-0225 Email: info@acds.org http://acds.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Explanation:</p> <p>A non-profit organization that works at the national and local levels to promote the well-being of people with Down Syndrome and other disabilities; provides information and services to children and young adults and holds an annual conference; provides a school for children with Down Syndrome and an educational center for children with cerebral palsy.</p>	

Center for Disability Resources	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide and assist people with disabilities find and utilize available resources within the community and throughout the state.	USC School of Medicine 8301 Farrow Road Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 935-5263 Fax: (803) 935-5342 www.sc.edu/scakp email: youngs@cdd.sc.edu
Explanation:	
Promotes the independence and full integration of all people within the community; increases knowledge and expertise regarding assistive technology policy issues and funding; offers a technology demonstration center, short-term equipment loan program and information about training and funding for assistive technology.	

Center for Disability Resources Library	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information and resources regarding all aspects of disabilities and those who work in the field.	South Carolina Disabilities Collaborative 6311 Garners Ferry Road Building 101 Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 733-1501 (803) 733-3344 Fax: (803) 733-1509 Email: Wilsonsgw@med.sc.edu www.uscm.med.sc.edu/cdr
Explanation:	
The CDR library provides disability-related information (books, videos, articles, audiotapes) for people with disabilities, their families, students, professionals and other interested individuals.	

Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation: Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide resources and information to people living with paralysis and their families.	636 Morris Turnpike Suite #3A Short Hills, NJ 07078 (973) 467-8270 Fax: (973) 467-9845 Toll free: 1-800-539-7309 Email: prc@crpf.org http://www.paralysis.org
Explanation:	
The Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation promotes the health and well-being of people living with paralysis and their families by providing comprehensive information resources and referral services. Highly trained Information Specialists respond to questions in English and Spanish via the toll-free number, email or in person. The PRC houses a national clearinghouse library of paralysis-related publications, maintains a constantly evolving self-help web site and publishes an extensive print manual.	

Citizens for Advancement of the Physically Handicapped (CAPH)	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information, resources and community for individuals with disabilities.	1620 Goldfinch Lane West Columbia, SC 29169-5422 (803) 796-6493
Explanation:	
Citizens for Advancement of the Physically Handicapped (CAPH) is a statewide organization that encourages fellowship among people with disabilities; promotes their abilities; advocates for disability rights; promotes public transportation and designated parking for vehicles with visible permit when driven by or transporting people with disabilities; helps with educational scholarship aid to persons with significant disabilities; builds residential wheelchair ramps in the greater Columbia area only.	

Disability Action Center of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To empower people with disabilities to reach their highest level of independence.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Midlands:</u> 1115 Belleview Street Columbia, SC 29201 Voice: (803)779-5121 Toll-free: 1(800)681-6805 TTY: (803)779-0949 Fax: (803)779-5114</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Upstate:</u> 712 Laurens Road, Greenville, SC 29607 Voice: (864)235-1421 Toll-free: 1(864)681-7715 TTY: (864)235-8798 Fax: (864)235-2056 Email: amayne@dacsc.org www.dacsc.org</p>
Explanation:	
The Disability Action Center, Inc. is a nonprofit, consumer governed Center for Independent Living. Programs and services support persons with disabilities in taking full advantage of community resources, enhancing personal opportunities, and determining the direction of their lives.	

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.	

Family Connections	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To bring families with children with disabilities together to strengthen support networks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Information:</p> <p>2712 Middleburg Drive Suite 103-B Columbia, SC 29204 Phone: (803)252-0914 Statewide: 1-800-578-8750 Fax: (803)799-8017 Email: info@familyconnectionsc.org www.familyconnectionsc.org</p>
Explanation:	
<p>Family Connections is a statewide organization that was created for the sole purpose of connecting families. They believe that the best resource for someone with a child with a disability is by networking with other families with similar needs. Family Connections has offices in Columbia, Greenville, Anderson, Spartanburg, Aiken, Charleston, Rock Hill, and Florence. As part of their mission, each family is partnered with a “veteran Support Parent” who will be able to best connect with them and help them with their struggles. Please contact the main number listed above for more information about which local chapter would be able to help you.</p>	

Family Information Network: Department of Family and Youth Development	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To provide information and resources to families and individuals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact:</p> <p>243 P&A Building Clemson University Clemson, SC 29634-0315 (864) 656-0110 Fax: (864) 656-5723 Email: amerck@clemson.edu www.clemson.edu/fyd/index.htm</p>
Explanation:	
<p>Family Information Network provides an electronic database including information on licensed child care providers, nursing homes, how to choose a residential facility, immunizations, illnesses, financial assistance and more. For more information, contact your county extension office.</p>	

IMPACT SC Self-Advocacy Council (Individuals Motivating People to Change in South Carolina)	
<p style="text-align: center;">Purpose:</p> <p>To provide a self-advocacy group for individuals with disabilities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact:</p> <p>The Self-Determination Project Center for Disability Resources USC School of Medicine Dept. of Pediatrics Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 935-5228 Fax: (803) 935-5141 Toll free: 1-866-697-0732 Email: kcannon@cdd.sc.edu</p>
Explanation:	
<p>IMPACT SC is South Carolina’s statewide self-advocacy council with representatives from various counties throughout the state. The council seeks to encourage and motivate persons with disabilities to work together for systems change and inclusion in all areas of their lives. If you would like more information about the IMPACT SC or local self-advocacy groups in your area, please contact Kim Cannon at the numbers listed above.</p>	

Joseph P. Kennedy , Jr. Foundation	
Purpose:	Contact:
To support innovative programs for people with intellectual disabilities.	1133 19 th Street, NW 12 th Floor Washington, DC 20036-3604 (202) 393-1250 Fax: (202) 824-0351 Email: info@jpkf.org www.jpkf.org
Explanation:	
The mission of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is to provide leadership in the field of intellectual disabilities and service to persons with intellectual disabilities, both those born and unborn, and their families. The foundation has two major objectives: First, to improve the way society deals with its citizens who have intellectual disabilities and secondly, to help identify and disseminate ways to prevent the causes of intellectual disabilities. For more information regarding programs, policy advocacy, and supports, please visit the website listed above.	

Keshet—Jewish Parents of Children with Special Needs	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide educational, recreational and vocational programs for children and young adults with special needs.	425 Huehl Road Suite 13B Northbrook, IL 60062 (847) 205-1234 Fax: (847) 480-9120 Email: ken@keshet.org www.keshet.org
Explanation:	
Keshet is a parent organization that provides educational and recreational programs for Jewish children with special needs. Keshet offers day school, Sunday school, recreational and young adult services to 250 families with members who have special needs. Contact Keshet to find resources available in your community.	

National Multiple Sclerosis Society (National and Mid-Atlantic Chapter)	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information, resources and support to those individuals, families and caregivers affected by the disease.	<p><u>National:</u> 733 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017 (212) 986-3240 Fax: (212) 986-7981 Toll free: 1-800-344-4867 (Fight MS) Email: info@nmss.org www.nmss.org</p> <p><u>Mid-Atlantic Chapter</u> 2711 Middleburg Drive Suite 105 Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 799-7848 Fax: (803) 765-2259 Toll free: 1-800-922-7591 Email: ncp@nmss.org www.nationalmssociety.org</p>

Explanation:

The National MS Society provides funding for research, public and professional education, advocacy and the design of rehabilitative and psychosocial programs. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter serves people with MS and their families. The chapter provides information and referral, self-help groups, equipment loans, respite care, educational programs, emergency financial assistance, counseling groups, employment information and free lending library.

National Organization on Disability

Purpose:

To expand the participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women and children with disabilities in all aspects of life. By raising disability awareness through programs and information, together we can work toward closing the participation gaps.

Contact:

910 16th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-2988
(202) 293-5960
Fax: (202) 293-7999
TTY: (202) 293-5968
Email: ability@nod.org
www.nod.org

Explanation:

National Organization on Disability is a national network organization working to increase employment opportunities, address architectural barriers and transportation need, and help to integrate people with disabilities into community and religious life; provides manuals, training guides, technical assistance and information and referral to local resources.

National Rehabilitation Association

Purpose:

To provide resources and information to people needing rehabilitative services and to professionals who work with the individuals.

Contact:

633 South Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-0850
Fax: (703) 836-0848
TTY: (703) 836-0849
Email: info@nationalrehab.org
www.nationalrehab.org

Explanation:

National Rehabilitation Association is a membership organization for professionals in the field of rehabilitation. Their mission is to provide advocacy, awareness and career advancement for professionals in the fields of rehabilitation, including independent living instructors and other professionals involved in the advocacy of programs and services for people with disabilities.

Ombudsman Program	
Purpose:	Contact:
To act as a facilitator in resolving problems or issues that residents of South Carolina are experiencing.	Governor's Office of Ombudsman 1200 Senate Street Room 104 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-5049 Fax: (803) 734-0799 Email: mark@gov.sc.gov www.oepp.sc.gov/ombudsman
Explanation:	
The Ombudsman Program has an elected official who is responsible for investigating and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care, mental health, or DDSN. The Ombudsman also advocates for children's affairs; administers the Client Assistance Program, which ensures the rights of people accessing or receiving services from SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Commission for the Blind and Independent Living Programs. The program also monitors the implementation of laws regarding care facilities and promotes the quality of care.	

Project: Possibility	
Purpose:	Contact Information:
To provide groundbreaking software to persons with disabilities.	http://www.projectpossibility.org/index.php
Explanation:	
Project: Possibility's mission is to inspire a community of persons with disabilities and software developers to work together and make a difference by inventing software that will unlock new areas of life for persons with disabilities, giving them access to experiences previously impossible to achieve.	

Program Development Associates	
Purpose:	Contact Information:
Reference tool for goods available for use by the disability community.	http://www.disabilitytraining.com
Explanation:	
Program Development Associates publishes a catalog of goods for use in the disability resources arena. To request a catalog, please visit the website listed above.	

School District 5 of Richland and Lexington Counties: Adult Education	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide literacy tutoring to adults who have difficulty reading.	6745 Saint Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29212 (803) 732-8100 ext. 164 Email: vhorne@lex5.k12.sc.us http://www.lex5.k12.sc.us/departments.cfm
Explanation:	
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties offers a selection of courses prepared especially for you, the adult citizen. Whether you need courses for high school diploma, high school equivalency (GED), to learn a new skill or to self improve, you will find something to fill those needs. School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties Adult Education 2007-2008: Site Location: Irmo High Technology Building at 6745 St. Andrews Rd.	

Classes offered: Literacy, PreGED, Fast Track GED, ESL, Diploma, Computer, WorkKeys, Para Pro, and ASVAB preparation
Cost: Diploma - \$50 per course.
 All other classes, except for computer - \$35 each semester
Orientation: Prior to attending classes, all clients (except for ESL and computer clients) must attend an orientation. ALL 17 year olds must obtain a permission to enter letter from Michael Harris at the Department of Student Services at the district office before they will be allowed to attend orientation. All students 17-21 must bring a GED withdrawal form from the last high school attended, an official transcript, and a copy of their HSAP/Exit Exam scores.
Orientation Times for Literacy, PreGED, GED, and Diploma Classes: Alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays – call for dates.
 Morning sessions: 9 a.m. – noon
 Evening sessions: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Class Sessions: Literacy, PreGED, GED, ESL, WorkKeys, Para Pro, and ASVAB preparation: 9 a.m. – noon or 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 Tuesdays and Thursdays Diploma classes: 2 p.m. – 8p.m.
 Tuesdays and Thursdays LAB: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. –noon for PreGED, GED, WorkKeys, and Diploma students

Southeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (Southeast DBTAC)	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information and technical assistance regarding ADA and to those individuals with disabilities.	490 Tenth Street Atlanta, GA 30318 (404) 385-0636 Fax: (404) 385-0641 Toll free: V/TTY 1-800-949-4232 TTY: (404) 385-0636 Email: sedbtac@catea.org www.sedbtac.org
Explanation:	
Southeast DBTAC provides information, materials and technical assistance to persons and entities that are affected by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Their services include: technical assistance; publications and materials dissemination; training; public awareness; and referrals.	

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council	
Purpose:	Contact:
To advocate for individuals with disabilities.	1205 Pendleton Street Suite 372 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-0465 Fax: (803) 734-0241 clang@govoepp.state.sc.us
Explanation:	
The council advocates for the independence, promotes the productivity and fosters the integration of people who have developmental disabilities. The council also has a Transition Coordinator who helps to improve educational outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.	

South Carolina Department of Education	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide quality education for all children throughout the state.	1429 Senate Street Rutledge Building 808 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-8224 Fax: (803) 734-4824 Toll free: 1-800-763-5437 TTY: (803) 734-8408 Email: sdurant@sde.state.sc.us www.ed.sc.gov
Explanation:	
The State Department of Education, through local school districts, is responsible for ensuring that all children with disabilities, ages three through twenty-one, have available to them a free, appropriate public education. The SDE is also responsible for statewide coordination of the planning and implementation of child identification, location and evaluation efforts (Child Find).	

South Carolina Partnership for Disabilities Organizations	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide a collaborative alliance between organizations that advocate for people with disabilities.	P.O. Box 8707 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 935-5266 Fax: (803) 935-5250 Email: thearcsc@aol.com
Explanation:	
The South Carolina Partnership for Disability Organizations is a collaborative of volunteer disability advocacy organizations joined together in partnership to provide leadership in advocacy on critical issues affecting lives of people with disabilities and their families. Member organizations include the Brain Injury Association of SC, SC Autism Society, SC Brain Injury Alliance, SC Spinal Cord Injury Association, and The Arc (mental retardation).	

South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Association	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide advocacy, research and education to individuals with spinal cord injuries and their families.	2009 Hampton Street Suite A Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 252-2198 Fax: (803) 376-4156 Toll free: 1-866-445-5509 Email: 2kermit@bellsouth.net www.scscia.org
Explanation:	
The three main goals are provide quality education, advocacy and research for people with spinal cord injuries and their families. SCSCIA strives to work cooperatively with all disability organizations and health care facilities in order to increase public awareness and improve the quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.	

The Charleston Disability Resource Center	
Purpose:	Contact:
To empower persons of all ages with all types of disabilities to reach their highest level of independence.	disAbility Resource Center (dRC) 7944 Dorchester Rd, Suite 5 North Charleston, SC 29418 Phone: 843- 225-5080 www.drcilc.org
Explanation:	
The Charleston Disability Resource Center is an Independent Living Center founded to promote independent living through community-based programs and individually through personal contact with consumers. The dRC establishes foundation for self-determination by teaching and providing advocacy, establishing peer support and counseling, developing and maintaining an information and referral network and to provide training for independent living skills..	

The Central Midlands Family Caregiver Support Programs	
Purpose:	Contact:
To assist family caregivers and their relatives age 60 or older with locating offering available resources and support.	Central Midlands Council of Governments 236 Stoneridge Drive Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 376-5390 Toll free: 1-866-394-4166
Explanation:	
The Central Midlands Family and Caregiver Support Programs offer assistance and support for Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties. They provide services to those, either caregivers or those being cared for, who are ages 60 or over. This program however is not emergency-based. They offer counseling, reimbursements for respite care and supplemental services, as funds allow. They serve individuals with or without disabilities. For more information about the different programs they offer, please contact the number listed above.	

The South Carolina Election Commission	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information and resources regarding voters rights, elections, precincts, and candidates for registered voters in South Carolina.	2221 Devine Street Columbia, SC 29250 (803) 233-2472 www.scvotes.org
Explanation:	
The mission of the State Election Commission is to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote, participate in fair and impartial elections and have the assurance that their vote will count. The website provides on-line voter registration, information about upcoming elections, candidate information, as well as information regarding which precinct to vote at.	

The Travis Roy Foundation	
Purpose:	Contact:
To help spinal cord injury survivors and to fund research into a cure.	Travis Roy Foundation Hemenway & Barnes LLP 60 State Street, 8 th Floor Boston, MA 02109 617-619-8257 Fax: 617-227-0781 http://www.travisroyfoundation.org/index.htm
Explanation:	
The Travis Roy Foundation has distributed more than \$2.5 million in individual grants and to research projects and rehabilitation institutions in North America. The foundation provides individual grants that typically range from \$4,000 to \$7,500 and can be used for the maintenance of wheelchairs, vehicle modifications, home modifications and elevator installation.	

Turning Pages	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide reading help for children and adults.	P.O. Box 1447 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 765-2555 Email: literacycolumbia@bellsouth.net http://www.literacycolumbia.org/
Explanation:	
Turning Pages mission is to enable adults, children and families, through customized learning programs to improve English language and reading skills. Tutoring is provided on-site at their service center or off-site. Please contact the number listed above for more information.	