



Greetings

In a year filled with uncertainty, the Able SC team remained committed to the community we serve and represent —South Carolinians with disabilities. As COVID-19 started to spread, Able SC quickly transitioned to virtual services while taking innovative measures to meet the needs of our community during a pandemic. While the demand for our services increased, our organization also experienced significant decrease in funding as a direct result of COVID-19. Through it all, we remained strong; and for that we are grateful to our staff, board members, consumers, stakeholders, funders and community of supporters.

This year Able SC led advocacy efforts for South Carolinians with disabilities to ensure the community was not forgotten in regards to healthcare, vaccinations and other critical services. We served on the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee and advocated for the rights of people with disabilities to local, state and federal lawmakers. When the lives of people with disabilities were being deemed less worthy of saving than the lives of others, we raised our voices to educate decision-makers as to the size and diversity of the disability community in South Carolina.

Our hardworking staff spent thousands of hours assisting and advocating for people with disabilities, helping them maintain their safety and independence. We temporarily closed our offices, but never our services.

At one point, we even administered an around-the-clock service to answer calls from people who felt alone, scared, or in need of supplies and services. We delivered free COVID-19 sanitation kits to consumers and their families, and assisted with other supplies such as food and medication. We served an additional 800 consumers as a direct result of COVID-19.

We realize there is still a lot of work to do in response to this pandemic, and we will continue doing everything possible to support our community. We also have great ambitions for 2021, which we are excited to share with you in the coming months. We envision building the most inclusive state in the country, and we are so grateful for what we have been able to accomplish and provide to the community with your support.

In Solidarity,

**Kimberly Tissot, Able SC President and
Chief Executive Officer**

David Laird, Able SC Board President



Programs

Able South Carolina does everything it takes to empower independence and disability rights by offering the following programs:

- Independent Living Skills Training
- Peer Support
- Individual Advocacy
- Systems Advocacy
- Transition to Adulthood
- Transition to the Community
- Information and Referral
- Assistive Technology Exchange and Reuse
- Supported Decision Making and Alternatives to Guardianship
- Community Leadership Academy
- Statewide Emergency Response
- Emergency Preparedness Training
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
- Employment Training and Programs
- Elementary, Middle, and High School Classroom Trainings
- Equip Young Adult Program
- Healthy Living Initiatives and Trainings
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy
- Ticket to Work Provider
- State Affiliate of the Southeast ADA Center
- Professional Trainings
- Keynote Speakers
- Physical Accessibility Assessments
- Web Accessibility Assessments
- Policy and Procedure Review
- Legislative Advocacy
- Hire Me SC
- Parenting with a Disability

14,883

Services proudly provided to

3,720

individuals with disabilities

AGES

0-12: 5%
13-28: 53%
29-64: 27%
65+: 14%

DISABILITIES

Cognitive: 49% Psychiatric: 4%
Physical: 21% Vision: 3%
Multiple Hearing: <1%
Disabilities: 11% Other: 11%

779

COVID-19 kits delivered

The kits **impacted over 2,100 individuals** in the state. Each kit included reusable washable masks, cleaning supplies, hand soap and sanitizer, paper towels, and toilet paper.

\$67k

During the last fiscal year, we managed **34 volunteers** who volunteered **2,805 hours** to our organization which is equivalent to **more than \$67,000 worth of services**.

Strides Made in 2020

2,612

Total professionals trained by Able South Carolina, by topic



Real Individual. Real Story of Impact.

Meet Rebecca P.: An individual with a visual and psychiatric disability who regained confidence through Able SC.



Rebecca P.

In addition to an existing psychiatric disability, I lost my vision in 1999. Prior to that I was a very independent person with a full-time job. Once I lost my vision, I was immediately and solely dependent on other people for transportation and my life was always tied to their schedules. I think I put myself in a position where I relinquished my independence and created a life of self-imprisonment.

What started my relationship with Able South Carolina was looking for transportation through

the COMET. I had to get registered and accepted to qualify for the Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART). As I was applying for DART services at the Able SC office, I was intrigued with a listing of the classes Able South Carolina offered. I had never been able to find any place like Able South Carolina and the timing was perfect. I needed the encouragement and support to regain my independence.

As a result of connecting with Able South Carolina and their staff, I realized I wasn't alone and there is a whole world out there that I didn't know about.

Breakdown: Sources of Revenue





Advocacy Day for Access and Independence

In 2020, Advocacy Day had a total of 4,831 viewers and a reach of 17,959.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit South Carolina, we had to make several quick decisions. One of those was moving our annual Advocacy Day from an in-person event to an online event. We knew it wasn't safe to meet in person, but our disability advocacy couldn't stop, either. Ours was among the first events moving fully online and our event was fully accessible. We modeled accessibility through having American Sign Language interpreters and live captions on the screen at all times. We were also able to expand our reach — both within South Carolina and across the nation. Our event was livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube, which ended up engaging 4,831 viewers, with a total reach of almost 18,000 individuals!

Staff & Board

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We work with **everyone.**

We impact change through a collaborative approach with partners on local, state, and national levels.

We want to hear from **you!**

www.able-sc.org

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