



**able**  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
  
2020-2021  
ANNUAL REPORT



# Greetings

The work represented in 2021 is not necessarily what we planned for, though, upon reflection, it may be our most pivotal year yet. As an organization committed to ensuring individuals with disabilities have equitable access to thrive, the need for our collective voice was solidified this past year across our shared homes, our communities, our statehouse, and beyond.

Able SC's voice - represented by 2833 consumers - was vital toward ensuring that individuals with disabilities were added to the priority list when Covid-19 vaccinations first became available. Our shared voice saved lives.

Our voice equipped individuals with disabilities across the state and nation to become leaders by removing barriers to their success and community inclusion.

Our voice in communities, in training sessions, in places of business, and in the offices of lawmakers is changing the perception that a disability is not something to hide from; it is something to be embraced and celebrated.

Our voice is only possible because of the collective movement that represents one of every three individuals in South Carolina. The support from staff, board, consumers, funders, and community supporters allows us to continue to advance our mission of creating greater access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to embrace full community inclusion.

We are proud of our collective accomplishments and look forward to the march ahead to ensure our shared vision becomes reality.

In Solidarity,

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

**Cory Watson, Able SC President of  
Board of Directors**



## Our Programs

Able South Carolina's programs empower independence and disability rights. We lead the way for people with disabilities to achieve full inclusion in community life with programs based in advocacy, employment, disability rights, access, and youth services.

## Our Mission

We are an organization of people with disabilities leading the charge to:

**Equip** people with disabilities with tools to foster pride and to direct their own lives.



**Educate** the community to challenge stereotypes and eliminate barriers.

**Advocate** for access, equity, and inclusion at the individual, local, state, and national level.

# 11,469

Services proudly provided to

# 2,833

 individuals with disabilities

### AGES

0-12: 1%  
13-28: 62%  
29-64: 27%  
65+: 10%

### DISABILITIES

Cognitive: 51%    Psychiatric: 6%  
Physical: 18%    Vision: 3%  
Multiple    Hearing: <1%  
Disabilities: 11%    Other: 11%

# 659

Lessons to SC students

Able SC received several grants that focus on teaching self-advocacy skills to middle school, high school, and college students. **The organization provided regular instruction to 1,274 students over the course of 659 lessons while working in 53 schools.**

# \$84k

During the last fiscal year, we managed **25 volunteers** who volunteered **3,307 hours** to our organization which is equivalent to **more than \$84,000 worth of services.**

# Strides Made in 2021

# 1,027

 Total professionals trained by Able South Carolina, by topic

## Real Individual. Real Story of Impact.

Meet Donna: Able SC worked with Donna long-term to bring her employment goals to fruition!

Recently, Able South Carolina helped Donna accomplish her goal of finding a job that meets her knowledge, skills, abilities, and interests.

Donna is a person with a physical disability. She had a job as an event worker, but lost her job soon after the pandemic began. She reached out to Able SC through our Ticket to Work program, seeking assistance with her resume, interviewing, navigating Social Security benefits, and other services to return to the workforce.

With two bachelor's degrees, Donna was studying to become a medical coder. Able SC staff gave insights on studying techniques and options for requesting reasonable accommodations when she sits for her exams.

While Donna was studying, she worked with Able SC staff on her professional resume, interview skills, and navigating unemployment insurance. She was also part of the Work Incentive Planning Assistance (WIPA) program for benefits counseling.

In the spring of 2021, she had yet to pass the coding exam. Donna discussed her next steps with Able SC staff and decided she was ready to start applying for jobs. Together, she and Able SC staff looked at jobs of interest and practiced mock interviews.

In July of 2021, Donna was offered a full-time position in medical records at Prisma Health—a great job that incorporates her knowledge of medical coding and aligns with her abilities and needs! The position is work from home, which was new to her. Donna took part in peer-led support meetings with Able SC staff, who helped her find ways to become confident in her new position.

As Donna began earning, she set a goal to learn more about budgeting and saving money. Able SC staff provided resources and helped her get started with the FDIC "Money Smart" program.

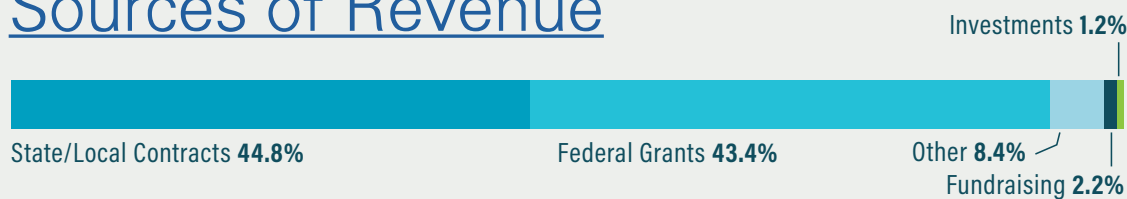
Able SC provided Donna a full year of services to help her meet her goals of employment, independence, and financial security. Today, Donna is enjoying her job. Donna feels good about her job and is happy to be back in the workforce.

This story of impact is brought by the following staff who provided the peer support Donna needed:

**Cali Sandel**  
Employment and Financial  
Literacy Coordinator

**Melissa Snyder**  
Lead Certified Work  
Incentive Coordinator

# Breakdown: Sources of Revenue



ANNUAL REVENUE

\$4,052,421

To view Able SC's most recent 990, visit [able-sc.org](http://able-sc.org).

## COVID-19 Education, Advocacy, and Support

Able SC continues to offer support, education, and advocacy as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and how those with disabilities, their families, and communities are impacted.

### Supporting Safety in SC Schools



Able SC is advocating for the rights of students with disabilities to participate fully in a safe and inclusive learning environment. In the fall of 2021 Able SC joined other disability organizations and parents to ensure students and school staff with disabilities were protected in response to the unlawful attempt to disempower school districts from implementing important public health strategies via a mask mandate ban.

### National Leadership



Able SC was awarded grant funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation to implement the Disability Vaccine Access Opportunities Center (DVAO Center). The DVAO Center increases the capacity for other disability organizations across the country to further access to vaccination for people with disabilities. This is just one element of our many programs that are leading disability advocacy nationally.

### SC Disability Vaccine Access Network



Thanks to federal and state grant funding, Able SC is leading the effort with key stakeholders to create a network to educate individuals in the disability community about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and information about how to get vaccinated. The network has spread awareness statewide through advertisements, vaccination events, and more, and hosts all information at [SCDisabilityVaccine.org](http://SCDisabilityVaccine.org).

### COVID-19 Disability and BIPOC Advocacy



Our team is proud to be subject matter experts on the needs of people with disabilities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We have continued to advocate for disability rights through actions and campaigns targeting direct needs of the disability community. We have also been able to expand education to Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities thanks to grant funding from the CDC Foundation to ensure multi-marginalized individuals are seen, heard, and supported.

**able**  
SOUTH CAROLINA

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Your support makes **all the difference.**

Your continued gifts help us empower people with disabilities to live independently.



@AbleSC



@able\_sc

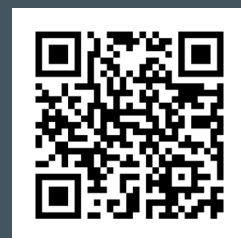


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Able South Carolina

[www.able-sc.org](http://www.able-sc.org)



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