



able
SOUTH CAROLINA
2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings

2022 was filled with big wins for Able South Carolina! Each of our programs experienced strides that have advanced our ability to equip people with disabilities, educate the community, and advocate for access, equity, and inclusion.

With each win, we further cultivate our story. In 2022, we passed legislation to end subminimum wage in South Carolina and bring the Employment First Initiative Act to fruition. We engaged with more than 20 million people with COVID-19 vaccine access education and services. We launched new program initiatives for our disabled youth. We were recognized at the national level for our work to advance Supported Decision Making as an alternative to guardianship. And, we accomplished all of this while still working directly with consumers one to one to meet their goals for independence.

We are nurturing a vision where South Carolina is a national model of equity and inclusion for disabled persons.

Our story continues as we live out our mission and values in our daily work. As a disability-led organization, our work doesn't end when the office is closed and the lights are dark. Disability is part of our daily lives and with your support, we will continue to grow our story until our vision is realized.

In Solidarity,

Kimberly Tissot

Able SC President and Chief Executive Officer

Cory Watson

Able SC Board President



Our Programs

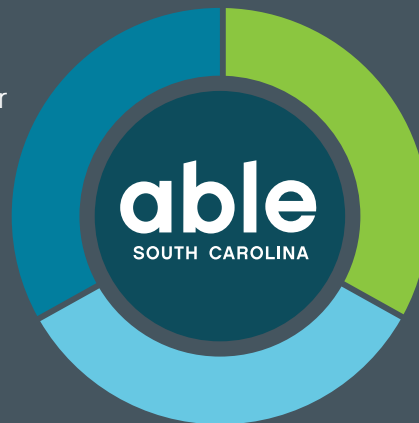
Able South Carolina's programs empower independence and disability rights. We lead the way for people with disabilities to achieve full inclusion in community life with programs based on advocacy, employment, disability rights, access, and youth services.

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.

Strides Made in 2022



PROFESSIONALS TRAINED BY ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA, BY TOPIC

- COVID-19: 1,061
- Employment: 743
- ADA and Disability Sensitivity: 628
- CIL Development: 347
- Assistive Technology: 180
- Education: 99
- Digital Accessibility: 87
- Health: 81
- Supported Decision Making: 78
- Disability Rights: 29
- Emergency Response: 25



16,074 Services proudly provided to 2,969 individuals with disabilities

AGES

- 0-12: 1%
- 13-28: 58%
- 29-64: 30%
- 65+: 11%

DISABILITIES

- Cognitive: 44%
- Physical: 15%
- Multiple Disabilities: 13%
- Psychiatric: 5%
- Vision: 2%
- Hearing: 1%
- Other: 20%

VACCINE ACCESS CAMPAIGN

39+

Centers for Independent Living Trained via the Disability Vaccine Access Opportunities Center.

688

People with disabilities educated.

673

Consumers assisted with vaccination.

329

People trained via webinars or presentations.

20,623, 934

Total number of people reached



519 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 1,247 students over the course of 519 lessons while working in 43 schools and programs.**

In 2022 Able South Carolina's Social Media channels across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn reached **1 million users** — **connecting our disability community, providing education, and advocating for disability rights.**

Real Individual. Real Story of Impact.

Meet Rebecca Pruitt: Able SC worked with Rebecca to reach her goals for living independently!



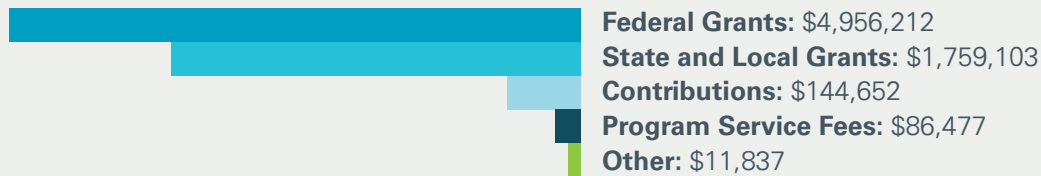
After two years of working with an Able SC staff member, Rebecca finally found housing! Due to a visual disability, Rebecca was living with her family, but still, she found her space in the home disrespected. As they attempted to make decisions for her and interfere with her goals for independence, Able SC worked with her on strengthening her advocacy skills and directing her own life.

Soon, Rebecca moved out, renting a motel for two years as they sought housing. When an apartment became available, she successfully applied and got accepted!

Rebecca moved into her first apartment since obtaining her disability. Excited, she called Able SC to share her news. Rebecca shared how grateful she was to Able SC for encouraging her to seek her own independence!

This story of impact is brought by **LaQuanda Clark**, Director of Independent Living Services.

Breakdown: Sources of Revenue



TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE:
\$6,958,281

To view Able SC's most recent 990, visit able-sc.org.

Able SC 2022 Major Wins



Advocacy: Employment Legislation

On May 23, 2022, S.533, a bill to end subminimum wage in SC, was signed into law following years of grassroots advocacy by Able SC and partners. SC became the third state in the Southeast and the 13th in the nation to pass legislation, breaking from federal law by ending subminimum wage. Part of the bill's successful passage included an amendment to combine with the Employment First Initiative Act. Employment First means that employment in the community should be the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. It means real jobs for real wages.

Youth: Establishment of Equip Clubs in SC Schools

In 2022, Able South Carolina established the first Equip Clubs in schools, partnering with Lexington-Richland School District 5. Equip Club is a school club modeled after our statewide program run by elected student leaders called Equip Club Officers. The Equip Club is founded on the same principles that make the Equip Leadership Group successful — to provide young adults with disabilities the opportunity to build their leadership skills, learn from each other, set goals for their future, and support the communities around them.

Consumer Rights: Selection for National Supported Decision Making Project

The Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice (CYVYC) announced South Carolina as one of their selections of five additional state teams to join its national Community of Practice to promote Supported Decision Making as an alternative to guardianship for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The South Carolina team is led by Able South Carolina. Other states include Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, and Oregon. Each state team will be co-led by youth with I/DD.



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Your support makes **all the difference.**

With your continued gifts, you become a part of our story. Be a part of our vision for a South Carolina that is the national model for equity and inclusion.



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