

Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare for People with Disabilities: A Co-Designed Educational Curriculum for Family Medicine Residents

Module 2: Patient and Caregiver Community Supports and Resources

Additional Resources

Thank you for engaging with the content in Module 2 of this project. Here are additional resources which can be used in your personal learning or applied to practice, including many organizations to share with your community.

Advocacy Organizations

[The Arc of Pennsylvania](#) - A community-based organization representing and supporting people with disabilities in education, health, advocacy, and through training. Individuals are represented by their local Arc subsidiary, and larger advocacy is supported statewide.

[Brain Steps](#) - Supports individuals with acquired brain injuries in the school system. They provide education and support to teachers, families, and support in navigating appropriate accommodations and IEP needs for individuals with brain injury.

[Centers for Independent Living](#) - Each state has a Center for Independent Living. They are a community-based, cross-disability, non-profit designed and operated by people with disabilities. They offer support, advocacy, and information about independent living opportunities and options for people with disabilities.

[Disabled in Action of Pennsylvania](#) - An organization of individuals with disabilities who are working to support civil rights for local resources and federal rights.

[Disability Rights PA](#) – Helps people with disabilities across advocacy needs in PA. Disability Rights assists with legal issues providing support from attorneys and experts. They provide information, referrals to other organizations and general advocacy. Specialty topics include discrimination, education, assistive technology voting access, Medical Assistance, and more.

[Education Law Center](#) - Working to ensure all students in school have access to a quality public education. Collaborate with lawmakers and grassroots organizations to advocate for education rights and resources.

[Inglis](#) – This organization offers innovation centers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to support individuals in accessing assistive technology and home modifications. They also offer community services, a long-term care community for individuals with physical disabilities, and support in finding wheelchair accessible apartments.

[Intermediate Units](#) - A statewide organization representing the 29 regional educational service agencies in Pennsylvania. They provide special education services, preschool programs, therapy, education for educators, and work closely with public school districts to serve students receiving special education.

[Liberty Home Solutions](#) – Liberty Home Solutions works with the Centers for Independent Living to provide home modifications for individuals with disabilities to stay safely in their homes and communities. They support finding and supplying modifications based on an individual's needs and can support financially.

[PA Assistive Technology Foundation](#) - Helps people with disabilities get assistive technology from both low interest and 0% interest financial. They offer mini grants for people getting loans. They also provide information on other possible funding sources.

[PA Family Network](#) – This organization exists within Vision for Equality PA. They are supported by ODP and work to support individuals and families to maximize collaboration and community engagement.

[PA Health Access Network](#) - A statewide, consumer driven organization working to protect and expand quality, affordable health care access for people across Pennsylvania.

[PA Health Law Project](#) - Working to increase access to healthcare for individuals from historically underserved populations. They provide free legal services and help individuals navigate the complex healthcare system to get the quality care they need.

[PA Secondary Transition](#) - A statewide resource providing information about the transition from the school system for individuals with disabilities. Focus on post-secondary education, employment, and independent living.

[PEAL Center Pennsylvania](#) - Focus on families with a child with a disability age birth to 26 and support access to an appropriate education and health care. PEAL provides resources for individuals, families, and professionals to support individuals with disabilities in accessing a full community-based life.

[Tech OWL](#) - Supports people with disabilities to explore technology and tools that can be used for independence. They have a lending library where you can try different types of technology. They also answer questions, have demonstrations and training. TechOWL also offers free specialty phones and lightly used equipment.

[Vision for Equality PA](#) – Support people with disabilities in equal access to support and services. They engage in advocacy efforts to ensure people with disabilities receive appropriate services and are able to access their communities. Programs include services across the lifespan.

Recreation Opportunities

[Carousel Connections](#) - Carousel Connections offers a participant centered model for adults with disabilities to collaborate, connect, and engage with the community. Their programs are focused

on job and skill building, independent living skills, and community involvement for individuals after they transition out of high school.

[Easter Seals](#) - Easter Seals provides a variety of therapeutic and recreational services for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. They offer accessible camping and recreation for adults with disabilities, in addition to providing respite programs for caregivers and their families.

[Magee Wellness Center](#) – A center related to Jefferson Magee Rehabilitation in Center City Philadelphia, located on the riverfront where individuals with disabilities can engage in fitness, recreation, and leisure opportunities. They offer monthly memberships and opportunities to engage with community members and staff.

[PA Vent Camp](#) - A summer camp for children and adults that use ventilation to breathe in Hummelstown, PA. This is a week-long camp that involves camp activities like zip-lining and crafts.

[PALS Programs](#) - PALS offers inclusive camp experiences where individuals with Down syndrome are paired 1-1 with a volunteer Peer. Camps take place on university campuses and are overnight, one-week long opportunities.

[Special Olympics PA](#) - Special Olympics serves over 15,000 athletes in Pennsylvania through a variety of sports and recreation during the year. Individual and team sports are offered to athletes by season, and individuals with disabilities are supported by volunteer coaches.

[Variety Club](#) - Variety offers many opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities ages 5-24 in the Delaware Valley area of Pennsylvania. During the summer, they offer day camps, overnight camps, and vocational camps for individuals to nurture independence and self-confidence.

Acknowledgement:

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3,025,222.00 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. Council efforts are those of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Copyright © 2025 Thomas Jefferson University and Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. Permission to reprint, copy and distribute this work is granted provided that it is reproduced as a whole, distributed at no more than actual cost, and displays this copyright notice. Any other reproduction is strictly prohibited.