Legislative Advocacy 2020

On January 14th, the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council sponsored their annual Legislative Advocacy training at the State Capitol. Many of our consumers were given a great opportunity to understand the advocacy process when meeting with Legislators.

On January 30th, the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities held their annual reception. Consumers met with Representatives and Senators and discuss important issues that affect individuals with disabilities. They also had the opportunity to receive training earlier in the day which let them interact directly with Legislators.

This year, the six Utah Independent Living centers will receive a one-time building block of $750,000 from the Department of Work for Services to be split equally. This funding will assist the centers in maintaining current level of funding for youth transition services, ages 5-24, and maintain current level of services for center programs.

I’d like to express my gratitude for all of the support for Ability 1st Utah throughout our 19 years of service. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like to get involved in any of the center activities. I wish all of you the very best this year and thank you so much for your continued support!

-Sandra M. Curcio - Executive Director

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The Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) was established to help people from being discriminated in housing related situations. For those who rent from a second party (landlord, rental company, etc), it states that people with disabilities have the right to have “reasonable accommodations/modifications” in their home.

Examples of Reasonable Accommodations & Modification

* Widening doorways for those who are wheelchair bound.
* Allowing service & support animals despite a “No Pets” policy.
* Installing grab bars for those with limited mobility.
* Giving an assigned parking spot for those who are wheelchair bound.

Important Note: You must get permission from your landlord BEFORE making any notable changes or ask to be exempted from specific policies.

If you feel you have been denied reasonable accommodations without cause or discriminated from housing based on your disability, you can reach out to Utah Legal Services — 801 374 6766 or the Disability Law Center — 800 662 9080.

New Staff at Ability 1st Utah

Craig Ezzell –
Youth Transition (Ephraim office)

I’ve been mentoring youth and individuals with social and physical challenges for many years. I graduated from Snow College and obtained my Bachelor’s in Social Work from the U of U. I’m married with twins that turned two in January. We live in Ephraim and really like the area and the people here. I enjoy sports and am a huge Ute fan!

- Maddie Campbell
IL Coordinator (Provo Office)

I’m currently studying Sociology at BYU. I just got married recently and love spending time with my family. I love going on hikes, playing sports, and visiting new places. My favorite place in the world is California. I love spending time on the beach in the warm weather. I look forward to getting to know and working with you all!
MARZO

3/3: Viaje de compras
3/4: Abogocia- Aprenderemos sobre la comunicación asertiva para crear cambios.
3/10: Clase de Cocina– Limited to 10 personas.
3/11: Comunicación- Aprenderemos sobre diferentes estilos de comunicación.
3/19: Boliche- Reúnete con nosotros en la Wilkinson Center en BYU. No tendremos transporte.
3/24: Clase de Pasatiempos– Aprenderemos sobre diferentes formas y estilos de arte.
3/31: Costura– Limited to 5 personas.

ABRIL

4/1: Abogocia– Tendremos a alguien de AARP como orador.
4/7: Viaje de compras.
4/8: Actividad de Pascua.
4/14: Clase de Seguro de Salud.
4/15: Proyecto de servicio- Iremos a Deseret Industry en Provo para hacer trabajo voluntario.
4/21: Película en el centro.
4/28: Clase de Cocina– Limited to 10 personas.
4/29: Clase de Pasatiempos– Estamos probando diferentes juegos mentales y rompecabezas.

Ultimo Dia Para Hacer Impuestos

Abril 15th, 2020

Asistencia con Impuestos

V.I.T.A.:
Un programa que ofrece asistencia con impuestos gratis si califica. Están ubicados en varios centros en la comunitarios.

Visitar: UtahTaxHelp.org
Llama (800) 906 - 9887

United Way:
Puede presentar un impuesto sencilla directamente en su página web.

Visitar: unitedway.org/myfreetaxes
Llama: 2-1-1
## March 2020

(For Class Times May Vary)

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### March

- **3/3: Shopping**
- **3/4: Advocates First** - We’ll talk about how communicate effectively when advocating for change.
- **3/10: Cooking** - Limit 10 consumers.
- **3/11: Communication** - We will learn about different communication styles.
- **3/18: Food Bank Service Project** - We’ll be going to Community Action to volunteer in their food bank department. Limit 10 consumers.
- **3/19: Bowling** - Meet us at the Wilkinson Center on BYU campus. NO TRANSPORT!
- **3/24: Hobbies Day** - Art class.

### April

- **4/1: Advocates First** - We have a guest speaker from AARP join us. We will also talk about empowerment.
- **4/7: Shopping**
- **4/8: Easter Activity** - We’ll be doing crafts and games.
- **4/14: Health Care Bingo**
- **4/15: Service Project** - We will be going to Deseret Industries to do some volunteer work.
- **4/21: Movie Day at the center.**
- **4/28: Cooking** - Limit 10 Consumers.
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**MARCH:** We’ll be learning about different art forms and styles.

**APRIL:** We’re trying out different mind games and puzzles.

**Goodbye**

We’d like to say goodbye to Kailee Rivera, our IL Skills coordinator. She has been with us for a little more than a year but has made a lasting impressions on the consumers. We wish her the best of luck with her new endeavors!
March 2020

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

NO CLASSES: 4/6-4/9

Youth Summer Program 2020!

It’s almost time for our yearly summer program! Applications will be available in late April/early May. We have a limited number of spots and it’s a “First Come-First Serve” basis. You need to turn in a completed application to reserve a spot.

TRANSPORTATION: If you need transportation to/from the center and live in the Northern/Southern parts of the county, try to meet us at a location closer to Provo for pick up or drop off.

We’re asking for a voluntary $50 donation to help with costs. Parents can also help by being chaperones/volunteers.

Bret Guercio
Office: (801) 850-5565
Cell: (385) 375-1370
bret@ability1stutah.org
• **Sit ‘n’ Stich:**
For all of our crafters, beginners or professional. If you know someone who likes to crochet, knit, or cross-stitch, bring them along.

• **HEAT Program: Ends 4/22.**
There’s still time to get in contact with Six County HEAT. **Call 435 835 2831 ASAP!**

• **Transportation Services:**
We do assist with transportation to doctors appointments. However, it’s meant to be a last resort option.

We encourage you to examine all other options **BEFORE** calling us for a ride.

---

**Ephraim Office**
**Office: (435) 283-4949**
**85 West 100 North**
**Ephraim UT, 84627**
Tax Day: APRIL 15th, 2020

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

V.I.T.A. is a program that offers free tax help for those that qualify. They’re generally located in community centers. Use the “VITA Locator Tool” or call (800) 906 - 9887 to find one near you.

Other Tax Help

United Way: Call 2-1-1 or go to: www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes

Earn it, Keep it, Save it:
Go to utahtaxhelp.org for more information.

Ability 1st Utah Staff

Sandra Curcio
Jhilma Miranda
Deon Anderson
Janine Culver
Wendy Hansen
Craig Ezzell
Shauna Parks
Angel Cortes
Roy Gerber
Bret Guercio
Darren Spencer
Madison Campbell
Kathy Tucker
Shelly Pitchforth
Cheryl Campbell
Cynthia Gonzalez

Vision

Promoting Independence for People with Disabilities

www.ability1stutah.org
Fax: 801-373-5094
Phone: 801-373-5044

Provo Utah, 84601
491 N. Freedom Blvd.

Ability 1st Utah

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