

Ability 1st Utah

Community Agencies Resource

Ability 1st Utah is a non-profit organization that helps individuals with disabilities to learn the skills to become independent and remain safe in their community and home environments. Our goal is to provide essential services that can remove the barriers individuals may be facing in their lives to help them meet their goals and needs.

Ability 1st Utah has five primary core services that supports and help individuals with disabilities develop independent living lifestyles.

Ability 1st Utah Primary Core Services:

- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Peer Support
- Individual and Systems Change Advocacy
- Nursing Home and Youth Transition

The first one is Information and Referral that connects individuals to resources in the community. Our Independent Living Coordinators can assist individuals in finding the right service that can help them find solutions to situations that they could be facing. Second is Independent Living Skills Training that provides classes and workshops, we provide transportation to and from classes and activities for those who have a transportation barrier. Third is Peer support which is based on the concept of mentoring, where a person with a disability can receive assistance, counseling and support from another individual with a disability. Fourth is Individual and Systems Change Advocacy designed on the development of advocacy skills so that individuals with disabilities can learn to advocate for their rights and interests. It is also designed to provide skills to make relevant changes in their community by removing barriers when accessing community services such as government policies, transportation and

housing systems, among others, to make them more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Fifth is Nursing Home Transition and Youth Transition. Nursing Home Transition is designed to help older adults' transition from an institution to their chosen community environment. It also includes Diversion Services and the New Choices Waiver Program to keep individuals in the community so they don't have to go into a nursing facility. Youth Transition Services serves youth 5 to 30 years of age during all stages of their growth to help them develop independent living skills and prepare them for adulthood.

Independent Living and Community Integration Programs:

Some of the services we are offering are recreational activities to provide opportunities for youth/adults to socialize with their peers. We also provide services in-person, phone, email, and virtual meetings. These classes and activities are taught by our

Independent Living and Youth Coordinators and can be attended in-person and/or virtually. For more information about the classes and services we offer, visit our website at www.ability1stutah.org.



Employment Services/ Ticket to Work Program:

Ability 1st Utah is also an Employment Network under the Social Security Ticket to Work Program. Our Employment and Benefits Counselor provides support and services for beneficiaries who are seeking employment towards financial independence.

Loan Bank and Assistive Technology Services:

Ability 1st Utah can offer services that provides equipment on a temporary basis. We also provide Assistive Technology services to help those who do not have insurance or other means to obtain equipment for a permanent placement. Some of our items are:



Hoyer Lifts

Power Chairs

Scoters

Wheel Chairs/Crutches

Walkers

Shower Chairs

Transportation:

We provide limited transportation to our consumers that need a ride to and from appointments such as medical appointments, shopping, among others.

All of our services are free at no cost to our consumers.

We want to help individuals with disabilities in our community in their journey of becoming self-sufficient and independent. We can become a vital resource for them so that they will know that Ability 1st Utah can be a place where they could find solutions and support. We are here to help them.

Contact Information

To make a referral you can reach us by calling 801-373-5044 or send an email to staff members who will get back with you as soon as possible:

Sandra Curcio: Executive Director: sandra@ability1stutah.org

Jhilma Miranda: Independent Living Specialist/ Case Management Supervisor: jhilma@ability1stutah.org

Daniel Lee: Frontline Receptionist: daniel@ability1stutah.org

Angel Cortes: Marketing Communications Coordinator: angel@ability1stutah.org

Janine Culver: Ticket to Work Employment Coordinator and Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor (CPWIC): janine@ability1stutah.org

Robert Jordan: Loan Bank Manager/Transportation Coordinator: robert@ability1stutah.org

Roger Brown: Assistive Technology/ Transportation Coordinator: roger@ability1stutah.org

Clementine Murff: Youth Program Coordinator: clementine@ability1stutah.org

Danetta Sabin: Youth Program Coordinator: danetta@ability1stutah.org

Deon Anderson: Nursing Home Transition: deon@ability1stutah.org

Cheryl Campbell: Fiscal Officer/ Bookkeeper: cheryl@ability1stutah.org

Jami Langeveld: COVID-19 Social Support Specialist: jami@ability1stutah.org

Michelle Tovar: COVID-19 Social Support Specialist: michelle@ability1stutah.org

Wendy Hansen: Independent Living Coordinator/ Nursing Home Transition, Ticket to Work Employment Coordinator and Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor (CPWIC) (Sanpete/Juab Counties): wendy@ability1stutah.org

Craig Ezzell: YouthTransition Coordinator(Sanpete/ Juab Counties): craig@ability1stutah.org

