



THE ABILITY CENTER™

MAKING INDEPENDENCE POSSIBLE SINCE 1920

DISABILITY RIGHTS POLICY ADVOCATE, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Full-Time

Posting Date: 01/25/2019

The Ability Center is a non-profit organization that helps individuals with disabilities gain and maintain independence in everyday living and encourages them to become active members of their communities. We offer a variety of programs, services, as well as promote understanding of disabilities. Located in Sylvania, Ohio, we serve seven counties in northwestern Ohio.

Position Summary: The Disability Rights Policy Advocate acts as a catalyst in creating systemic change that further enhances community-based living options for people with disabilities. The advocate works to increase the accessibility to, and usability of housing and transportation through government policy change. The advocate provides ACT's Disability Rights Attorney with administrative support and assists with identifying barriers, researching topics, developing strategies, investigating legal violations, organizing coalitions, and taking proactive measures that work to provide viable solutions. Developing a network of strong and effective consumer advocates as well as providing meaningful and impactful public comments to federal, state and local agencies and government representatives is key to this position.

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities:

1. In collaboration with others, identifies systemic barriers to *Olmstead* implementation in Ohio in the areas of Housing and Transportation and assists in prioritizing which issues the Advocacy Team will focus on.
2. Develops a strong knowledge base in the accessibility provisions of the Ohio Commercial Code, Ohio Residential Code, ADA and Fair Housing Act.
3. Monitors local multi-family housing construction for minimum compliance with federal, state and local accessibility regulations through contacts with the City of Toledo and OHFA. Advocates to improve access by actively providing comment/input on designs as well as support letters for publicly funded projects.
4. Conducts ADA and/or FHA access surveys & creates reports and/or letters that identify non-compliance and how to bring a facility into regulation compliance.
5. Monitors local transportation complaints to assist in identifying systemic issues in area transportation policy. Monitors changes in federal/ state transportation government policy and law that will affect northwest Ohio.
6. Serves as ACT's liaison to groups associated with public transportation policy advocacy. Coordinates monthly meetings by scheduling meeting space, ordering food, inviting attendees, etc. Schedules and participates in public presentations on community transportation issues. Creates poster signs, letters, flyers, etc.
7. Assists the Disability Rights Attorney by gathering & reviewing public documents through public records requests, identifying potential legal violations/ barriers to community living; interviews with relevant parties; drafting letters; meetings; site visits; or other actions to identify potential violations.
8. Assists in providing written or oral public comment to federal, state and local government regarding rule changes and/or need for policy improvements in the areas of transportation and housing.
9. Utilizes social media, as well as other platforms, to effectively rally support and bring awareness to identified barriers in a timely manner. Maintains Ability Center grassroots listserv and relationships with group leaders.

Qualifications: Bachelors' Degree preferred in Disability Studies, Political Science Civil Rights, or related field. Successful experience advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Record of leading policy/systems change efforts preferred. Knowledge of State & Federal Civil rights laws that serve people with disabilities. Willingness to learn housing industry, accessibility requirements, funding mechanisms & ability to effectively organize & facilitate collaborative group processes, team building, & coalition efforts.

Excellent interpersonal, relationship building and collaboration skills. Ability to analyze complex problems and develop creative solutions. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to plan, prioritize, and schedule events as well as speak in public forums. Will be required to travel to consumer and community locations, seminars, and/or professional meetings; some evening hours required.

Please submit resumes with cover letter to: hr@abilitycenter.org or fax to 419-885-5005

The Ability Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

We strongly encourage persons with disabilities and minorities to apply.