PARENTAL ROADMAP

Transition to Adulthood

For individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families













Dear Parents and Family Members,

If you have questions, please email Barbara at **bnunez@ucpstan.org**, and she will guide you. To anyone caring for a child or adult with special needs, please know you are not alone. I am pleased to introduce Barbara Nunez, who has prepared this resource to assist you and other parents and family members as you navigate the complex, confusing, and, at times, frustrating world of Medi-Cal and IDD services in California.

Thanks to Barbara's efforts, you now have a road map. This document aims to instill a sense of hope in your journey.

Barbara understands the challenges firsthand. Her son faces ADHD, as well as depression and anxiety. Her daughter has medically complex needs stemming from a rare disorder called Menke-Hennekam Syndrome, along with multiple intellectual and developmental delays as well as seizures. Barbara has overcome significant obstacles with her children. Along the way, she has gained valuable insights that we hope will benefit others in similar situations.

At Legacy Health Endowment, our goal is to help parents and families with special needs children and to keep you informed and educated. That's why we created this guide. We hope you will find it useful, but please keep in mind an essential lesson Barbara always shares: never hesitate to ask anyone and everyone who works with your family member about resources or support they might know of to assist your family.

We also encourage you to conduct thorough research and, most importantly, to advocate for your family member who may not be able to advocate for themselves or need assistance learning how to do so.

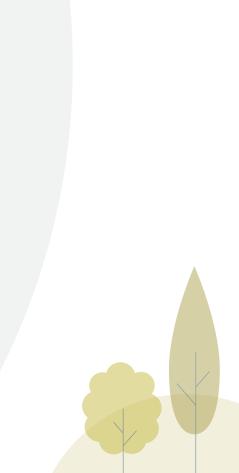
I want to thank Barbara; Chris Martin, the head of UCP of Stanislaus County; and LHE consultant Amy Wolfe for bringing this document to fruition.

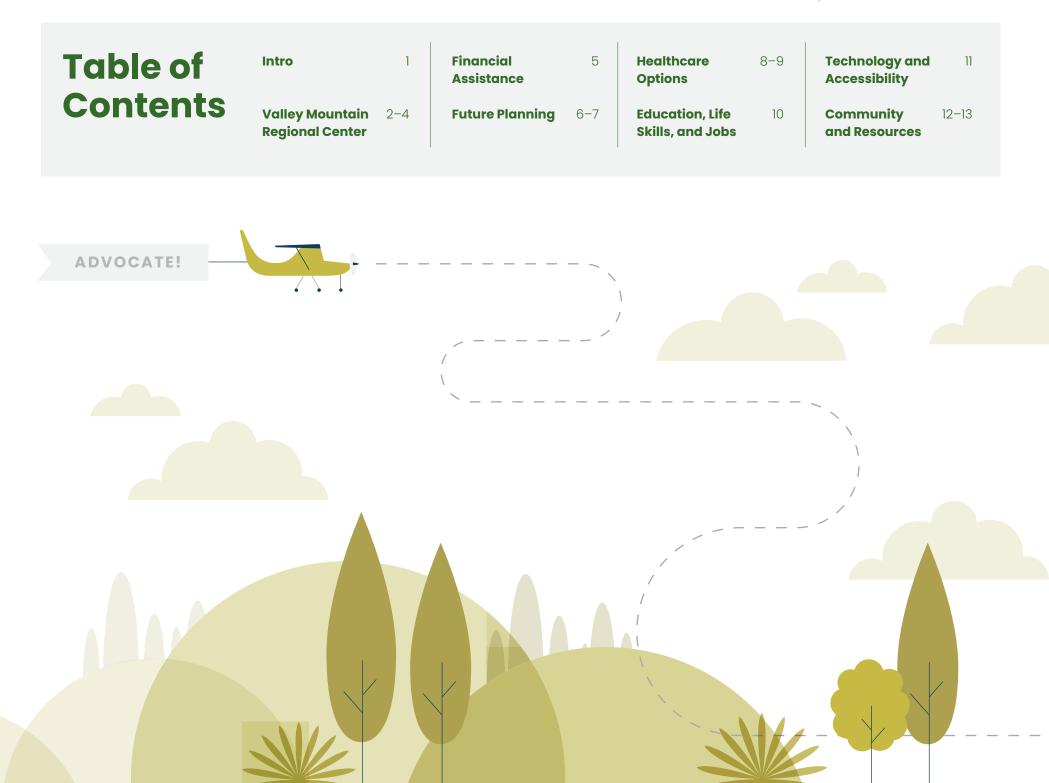
Good luck on your journey and remember to enjoy each small step of progress-time passes all too quickly.

Sincerely,

rey Lewis

President and CEO Legacy Health Endowment jeffrey@legacyhealthendowment.org





Valley Mountain Regional Center

In California, **Regional Centers** assist in coordinating support and services for individuals with disabilities.

Valley Mountain Regional Center is your local Regional Center.



VMRC PROGRAM DETAILS

Individual Program Plan (IPP)

Through Valley Mountain Regional Center, the individual and their team of friends, family, circle of support, and Valley Mountain Regional Center work together to decide what programs and services are needed and then arrange those services.

Valley Mountain Regional Center then pays vendors for your services.

The **IPP** is reviewed annually at **IPP** meetings during your family member's birthday month.

Vally Mountain Regional Center's Mission:

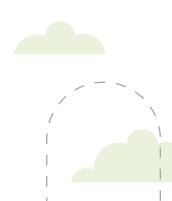
To support people with developmental disabilities as they enrich their lives through choices and inclusion. Valley Mountain Regional Center is committed to securing quality, individualized services in collaboration with families and the community

Social Recreation Program

The State of California designates money specifically for social recreation.

This means an individual may receive funding for summer camp, swimming lessons, art classes, educational therapy, and more if these services support their **IPP** goals.

The Social Recreational Program provider must be vendored with your **Regional Center**.



Self-Determination Program (SDP)

This program gives people with disabilities more freedom to choose the services and support that help them meet their goals.

Through Valley Mountain Regional Center, the individual and their team of friends, family, circle of support, and Valley Mountain Regional Center make up a person-centered plan for things they enjoy and need for a better quality of life. The person-centered plan is then reviewed.

Valley Mountain Regional Center will provide you with a budget through the financial management service, and you will spend the budget as you see fit.

Providers don't need to be **Regional Center** vendors and can sometimes be family members.

The SDP is reviewed annually.

HOW TO PROCEED

To apply, contact your **Regional Center** Case Manager

Attend the self-determination program orientation and get a certificate.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Will my family member get the same services as an adult that they got in school?

In reality, this depends greatly on your individual family member and the services provided as a student. Typically, adults receive the same services as children. However, sometimes they receive more services than children. It is essential to stay in frequent, close communication with your **Service Coordinator** to see what your options are.

How do I get an evaluation of my family member if I feel things have changed since childhood?

When the Valley Mountain Regional Center has already affirmed the IPP, you will need a plan an addendum or amendment to change the current Individual Program Plan, such as a personal goal or service. Contact your Service Coordinator, explain what modification you want to be made, and they will support you in navigating the addendum or amendment.

What's next after age 22?

While each **IPP** is unique, most families seek daytime programs and activities for their family members once they turn 22. Your **Service Coordinator** will assist you in considering which of these options is best for your family member:

- Daytime programs
- College using Disability Support Services (DSS) on campus
- Social, recreational activities, and sports
- Independent living services
- Supported living services
- Supported employment programs
- Paid internship program

Key Words and Acronyms:

RC (Regional Center) In California, Regional Centers assist in coordinating support and services for individuals with disabilities.

VMRC (Valley Mountain Regional Center) This is your specific, local Regional Center.

IPP (Individual Program Plan) Program for adult family members.

IEP (Individual Education Plan) Program for school-aged family members.

Service Coordinator A professional assigned through the Valley Mountain Regional Center to help you coordinate services for your family member.

What do you do when you are told no?

If you are ever told no, you should formally appeal the decision. This process is facilitated by your **Service Coordinator.**

The types of appeals available to you include:

- Consumer denial of personal rights/whistleblower
- Consumer and family complaints
- Complaints fair hearing
- Provider vendorization appeal
- Residential provider facility
 appeal
- Provider rate appeal

Available Daytime Programs:

UCP Stanislaus County

4265 Spyres Ave Ste. #2, Modesto, CA 95356 (209) 577-2122 www.ucpstan.org

Howard Prep

1424 Stonum Rd., Modesto, CA 95351 (209) 538-4000 www.howardprep.org

Central Valley Training Center 1405 Kansas Ave #C, Modesto, CA 95351 (209) 522-0332 www.cvtcinc.com

Open Doors 730 McHenry Blvd., Modesto, CA 95350 (209) 576-1918 www.odsinc.org

Cole Vocational

544 Lyell Drive, Modesto, CA 95356 (209) 575-3100



A DETAILED LOOK AT REGIONAL CENTER TIMELINES

New Clients

If you're applying for **Regional Center** services, the **RC** must:

- Assist with your application within 15 business days of your request.
- Complete any needed assessments of the individual within 120 calendar days.
- Request copies of any needed assessments previously done by a caretaker/doctor.

Transfer of RC

- If you transfer RC, services at the new RC must begin within 30 days.
- If the new RC doesn't have services or support, they must hold an Individual Program Plan meeting within 30 days.

Individual Program Plan (IPP) Process

The **RC** must:

- Give you access to records within 3 business days of your request.
- Notify you in writing within 10 days if your Service Coordinator is changing.
- Develop your IPP within 60 days of being found eligible.
- Hold an IPP meeting within 30 days of a request.
- Provide 24 hours notice if they are recording an IPP meeting.
- Meet again within 15 days if not everything can be resolved at the **IPP** meeting.
- Provide a Notice of Action within 30 business days if the **RC** wants to reduce, terminate, or change any services in the **IPP**.
- Provide a translated copy of the IPP within 45 days if requested in a different language.

Appeals

Communicating with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH):

- When the RC wants to terminate or reduce existing services, you must appeal in writing within 60 days of receiving the Notice of Appeal (NOA) or within 30 days from the notice of termination if you want to keep services in place.
- The informal meeting must occur within 10 days of OAH's receipt of your hearing request form.
- After the informal meeting, the RC representative has 5 business days to provide you with a written decision.
- If mediation is requested, the mediation must take place within 30 days of the appeal request.
- If you opt to go on to a fair hearing, the hearing must occur within 50 days after filing your hearing request.
- After the hearing, the administrative law judge has 10 days to write a decision. The hearing decision must be issued no more than 80 days after you initially requested the appeal, although timelines may be extended if you requested a postponement for good cause.
- If you disagree with the administrative law judge's decision, you have 180 days to file appeal documents in Superior Court.

What if the RC isn't responding?

If the timelines above are not met, there are options:

- If you need urgent assistance and can't reach your service coordinator, call your **RC** and ask to speak with the "Service Coordinator of the day."
- If your Service Coordinator has been generally unresponsive or problematic, you can ask to speak with their supervisor and/ or request a re-assignment to a new Service Coordinator.

Resources For Appeals:

The California Department of Developmental Services provides pathways to resolve problems and complaints.

(916) 654-1897 www.dds.ca.gov/general/appealscomplaints-comments

The Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) is part of Disability Rights California.

OCRA provides regional center clients free legal information, advice, and representation. OCRA serves clients of all 21 regional centers throughout California.

(800) 390-7032

www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-wedo/programs/office-of-clients-rightsadvocacy-ocra

Financial Assistance





OPTIONS

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

These benefits are for people of all ages with disabilities who cannot work due to their disability.

If approved for **SSI**, you will automatically receive **Medi-Cal**. **SSI** can automatically qualify you for many significant benefits like:

- Food Stamps (Cal Fresh)
- Medicaid
- Housing assistance
- Utility assistance
- Free cell phones

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

SSI benefits are for people of all ages with disabilities who do not qualify under work history.

APPLY ONLINE OR VISIT:

www.ssa.gov/apply/ssi

Social Security Administration 521 N. Carpenter Road Ste. El, Modesto, CA 95351

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (800) 772-1213

If denied, you must appeal promptly.

Food Stamps (Cal Fresh) Snap Benefits

This program provides monthly food benefits to low-income individuals and families.

This benefit is reviewed annually.

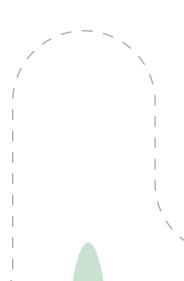
APPLY ONLINE, CALL, OR VISIT:

www.getcalfresh.org

Cal Fresh Info Line: 1-877-847-3663

Community Services Agency for Stanislaus County 251 Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (209) 558-2500



CalABLE – Achieving a Better Life Experience

This is a tax-free, advantaged savings account for people with disabilities. This will allow people to save money for disability-related expenses without losing their eligibility for public programs such as **SSI**.

This money can be used for disability-qualified expenses that improve the quality of life of a person with disabilities.

The maximum yearly contribution limit is currently \$18,000.

The maximum lifetime limit is currently \$100,000 before SSI benefits are suspended.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

To qualify, the disability must have been before age 26 (but any age can open an online account).

\$35.00 annual fee.

APPLY ONLINE OR CALL:

www.calable.ca.gov/about

Monday – Friday: 6:00 am – 5:00 pm (833) 225-2253

Future Planning

RIGHTS AND DECISIONS

Power of Attorney (POA)

This is a legal document that gives someone named by the individual the authority to handle medical, legal, or financial matters for that person under circumstances. A critical component of the POA is that your intellectual or developmentally disabled family member must understand what they are signing.

The person who creates a POA is called the principal, and the person authorized to act for that individual is called the attorney-infact or agent.

States set their own rules governing POA arrangement.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

It is important to seek professional guidance and support when navigating this process to ensure that your family member's rights and your practical realities in caring for them are both considered.

LEARN MORE AT:

saclaw.org/learn/find-a-form/

Conservatorships

This is a legal proceeding where an individual or agency is appointed by a court to be responsible for a person who needs assistance in activities of daily living.

It is reviewed in the first year and every two years after the first review.

This applies to individuals aged 18 and over, but the process can start at 17-and-a-half. It takes about six months to complete.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

Once your child turns 18, they legally have the right to make their own financial, educational, medical, life, and sexual decisions. You can conserve them if you feel they cannot make some or all these decisions.

LEARN MORE AT:

www.selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/ limited-conservatorships

Contact a lawyer or paralegal who specializes in conservatorships.

Lawyers' fees and paralegal fees will vary depending on the lawyer.

You can also do it yourself, but it is lengthy and tedious.

ID CARDS

ID Cards

California or real ID cards can be obtained at your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office. You can make an appointment by phone or online.

HOW TO PROCEED

www.dmv.ca.gov

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Various locations. Find the nearest using the website.

(800) 777-0133



LONG TERM FUTURE PLANNING

Wills

If your family member receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and then if they are made a beneficiary in a will they could lose their SSI (depending on the amount of money). This is a reason to consider setting up a Special Needs Trust (SNT).

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

To determine if this is right for you, seek the advice of a special needs trust attorney.

HOW TO PROCEED:

Set up with an attorney or paralegal with experience in the laws impacting individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The average cost for a will varies from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Special Needs Trust (SNT)

A **Special Needs Trust (SNT)** can be used in inheritance lawsuits to give individuals more money than **SSI** allows.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

This should be set up to prevent your child or adult with disabilities from losing their **SSI** benefits since they are only allowed a small amount in their personal bank account.

HOW TO PROCEED:

Set up with an attorney or paralegal specializing in **SNT**.

"We encourage you to conduct thorough research and advocate for your family member who may not be able to advocate for themselves or need assistance learning how to do so."

Jeffrey Lewis, President and CEO Legacy Health Endowment

Healthcare Options



STEP ONE

Your Primary Care Physician

Your family member's Primary Care Physician (PCP) is at the center of your healthcare journey. The forms they provide serve as a patient's cornerstone health record and a communication tool for many healthcare professionals. This ensures consistent and coordinated care for the patient.

COVERAGE

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid health care program. This program pays for a variety of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources. Medi-Cal is supported by federal and state taxes.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

Most will qualify for Medi-Cal depending on their disability.

LEARN MORE AT:

For Medi-Cal providers in Stanislaus County, visit: www.csa-stanislaus.com/medi-cal/

For Medi-Cal providers in Merced County, visit: www.countyofmerced.com/458/ Medi-Cal

Insurance

With some insurance, adults who have a disability beyond age 26 can stay on their family's plan.

HOW TO PROCEED:

If your health insurance is provided through your employer, talk to the human resources department for more details on your plan's specific details.

You can also call the patientspecific phone number on the back of your health insurance card for assistance.

VMRC

CARE OPTIONS

Respite Care

Respite care is the temporary care of a person who requires high support, care, and supervision, giving the caregiver a break from their duties.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

A key component of this program is that all respite care must be received in your home.

HOW TO PROCEED:

Ask your **Service Coordinator** for respite hours away from your loved one. They will provide a list of different agencies with information on how to apply.

You can hire your own respite caretaker, but that individual must sign up with the specific agency you select from the list provided by your **Service Coordinator**

Personal Care Attendants (PCA)

A **personal care attendant (PCA)** is a professional who assists the elderly, disabled, or people in recovery with performing day-today activities.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

Unlike respite care, these support services can be provided in your home or community, such as visiting parks, going to the movies, shopping, running errands, etc.

HOW TO PROCEED:

Your **Service Coordinator** will provide directions on how to find and hire your **PCA**.

The provision of this position is reviewed annually as part of the evaluation conducted by the Valley Mountain Regional Center

In-Home Support Services (IHSS)

IHSS exists to provide care for aged, blind, or disabled people who have limited abilities to care for themselves and cannot live safely at home without help.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

To be eligible, the individual must be unable to live safely without assistance, and must have Medi-Cal.

CALL TO APPLY:

In-Home Support Services Stanislaus County 3525 Coffee Road Modesto, CA 95355

Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm (209) 558-2637

www.cdss.ca.gov/in-homesupportive-services

Your information will be taken over the phone, and your case will be assigned to a social worker.

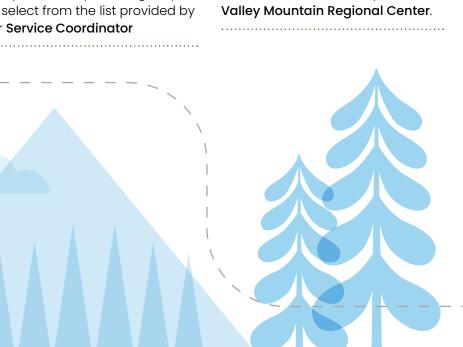
Your social worker will conduct a Needs and Risk Assessment at your home. This assessment will determine what services you qualify for.

You may hire a friend, family member, or someone registered as a provider.

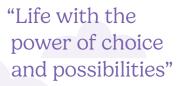
The assessment is reviewed every year for changes.

Become An IHSS Provider:

Fill out an application and Provider Enrollment Form (SOC426) and return it in person. Get fingerprinted at an assigned agency. Attend an **IHSS** orientation in your county. Sign the enrolled agreement, then wait for the approval.



Education, Life Skills, and Jobs



Valley Mountain Regional Center's commitment

OPTIONS

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

The **DOR** works with individuals to provide services and advocacy for employment, independent living, and equality for individuals with disability services.

- Independent Living Skills (ILS)
- Peer support
- Skill development
- Advocacy
- Referrals
- College and textbook
- Disability benefits program
- Connect with other groups
- Assistive technology services
- Transition services
- Job search skills
- Interview skills
- Job training and tools
- Transportation
- Disability equipment
- Housing assistance
- Personal assistance services

LEARN MORE OR APPLY AT:

www.dor.ca.gov

Department of Rehabilitation 1209 Woodrow Ave. # B1. Modesto, CA 95350

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (209) 576-6220

California Children's Services

This is a statewide program that arranges, directs, and pays for medical care, equipment, and rehabilitation for children and young adults up to age 21 who have eligible medical conditions. Services include:

- Physical Therapy (P.T.)
- Occupational Therapy (O.T.)
- Orthopedic Appliances
- Medical Equipment
- Medical Case Management
- Referrals to other agencies
- Medical Therapy Program

HOW TO PROCEED:

Ask your family member's doctor for a referral or call directly.

California Children's Services 830 Scenic Drive, Modesto, CA 95350

(209) 558-7515

www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs

Institutes With Disability Services and Accommodation:

Modesto Junior College

Accommodations and Support Center 435 College Ave. Modesto, CA 95350 (209) 575-6550 www.mjc.edu/asc/

San Joaquin Delta College

5151 Pacific Ave. Stockton, CA 95207 (209) 954-5151 www.deltacollege.edu/department/ disability-support-programs-services

California State University, Stanislaus 1 University Circle. Turlock, CA 95382 (209) 667-3122 www.csustan.edu/disability-resourceservices

VMRC

Technology and Accessibility

Communication Devices

Your family member can have a speech-language evaluation through either Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) or the Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living (DRAIL) to determine available treatment options, tools, and additional resources.

DRAIL

1101 Sylvan Ave. Ste C105 Modesto, CA 95350

(209) 521-7260 www.drail.org

Adaptive Equipment

Adaptive equipment are tools that help simplify daily living. Ask your **Service Coordinator** for a referral or assessment to evaluate the qualifications for adaptive mobility equipment, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, and hearing aids. Your **Service Coordinator** can also assist you with procuring medically-necessary resources including incontinence supplies, nutrition supplies, helmets, strollers, and wheelchairs.

Home Adaptations

VMRC can assist you with having modifications made in your home. These include, but are not limited to, chair lifts, shower and bathtub grab bars, door locks, ramps, railings, lighting, stair lifts, flooring, and counter-tops. Ask your **Service Coordinator** to help evaluate and install these home adaptations.

Vehicle Adaptations

VMRC can assist you with having modifications made to your vehicles. These include, but are not limited to, hand controls, wheelchair restraints, transfer seats, wheelchair lifts and ramps, and home modifications to enter the vehicle. Ask your Service Coordinator to help with evaluating and installing these vehicle adaptations, or contact the Modesto Mobility Center directly.

Modesto Mobility Center 1223 N. Emerald Ave. Modesto, CA 95351

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 5 pm (209) 577-1069 or (209) 205-9088

www.modestomobilitycenter.com

Community and Resources

"Never hesitate to ask anyone and everyone who works with your family member about resources or support they might know of to assist your family."

Barbara Nunez, Mom and Board of Directors member UCP of Stanislaus County

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON GROUPS

Special Needs in My City

This is an online resource offering information and support for parents, family members, and caretakers.

- · Connections to families
- Peer-to-peer support
- Parent support
- Picnic in the park
- Health and wellness conference

Love Modesto volunteer
 opportunities

HOW TO PROCEED:

Connect with the founder Meena Tadimeti at meenat@snimc.org

Or visit www.specialneedsinmycity.org

Turlock Autism Group

This is an online resource offering information to connect families with individuals specifically with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

- Mom's dinner
- Tag morning meet up
- Binder night
- Speakers
- Advocacy & support
- Easter egg hunt
- Trunk-or-treat
- Float in Turlock Christmas parade

LEARN MORE AT:

www.turlockautismgroup.org

Family Resource Network

This group supports individuals from birth to age 22, as well as beginning to provide adult services. Their services include:

- Information and referrals
- Family support
- Outreach
- · Mother's retreat annually
- Advocacy
- Workshops and seminars
- Resources: Books, Tapes, Articles
- -----

LEARN MORE AT:

www.frcn.org

Family Resource Network 5250 Claremont Ave. Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207

(209) 472 -3674 (800) 847-3030

RESOURCES

The Arc of California

The Arc of California seeks to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and support full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. Their services include:

- Grassroots Advocacy
- Conduct Training and Events

- Travel
- Education
- Inclusive Volunteering
- Criminal Justice System
 Outreach
- Future Planning
- Employment
- Health Technology

LEARN MORE AT:

www.thearcca.org

The Arc of California 1225 8th St. Ste 350 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 448-3234

Society for DisAbilities

Loan closet

- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Shower chairs
- · Commodes
- Hoyer lifts
- Hospital beds
- Benches
- Side boards
- Programs and activities
- Bike camp
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Golf
- Water skiing
- Snow skiing
- ASL classes
- Buddy/action club
- Workforce development

Special events

- Day on the farm
- Ice skating
- Community brunch
- Jeans and Jewels Gala
- Say Yes to the Dress Prom

LEARN MORE AT:

www.societyfordisabilities.org

Society for DisAbilities 1129 8th Street Ste 101 Modesto, CA 95354

Office: (209) 524-3536 Loan Closet: (209) 524-3536 Thrift Store: (209) 497-6552

Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living (DRAIL)

Core services

- Assistive technology advocacy service
- Housing search assistance
- Information & referral
- Independent living skills
- Peer support services

Community center

- Advocacy/Community Education
 (ACE) group
- Community advisory council (CAC)
- Job development
 opportunities
- In-person and virtual workshops
- Volunteer opportunities
- Peer support groups
- Youth transition services ages 12-26

LEARN MORE AT:

www.drail.org

DRAIL 1101 Sylvan Ave. Ste C105 Modesto, CA 95350 (209) 521-7260

Programs

- Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) of the Mother Lode
- Homelessness Outreach at
 Stanislaus County Access Center
- Disability Disaster Access and Resources (DDAR)
- Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Benefits Advising:
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)
- Housing Disability Advocacy
 Program (HDAP)
- Social Security Advocacy (SSA)



