Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council

Summary of Self-Advocacy Organizations and Advocacy Resources

There may be additional resources not yet on this list. If you have corrections or additions, please contact coloradoddcouncil@gmail.com.

Summary of Self-Advocacy Organizations and Advocacy Resources **1**
- National Self-Advocacy Organizations 1
- Colorado Self-Advocacy and Family Advocacy 2
- The Arc Chapters in Colorado 4
- Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Colorado 4
- Research & Technology Resources 4

National Self-Advocacy Organizations

These organizations provide national leadership, technical assistance, and a unified voice for self-advocates across the United States.

- **Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)**
  - **Description:** A non-profit disability rights organization run by and for autistic people, advocating for systems change, civil rights, and inclusion in policies. Provides education, training, and advocacy tools.
  - **Website:** autisticadvocacy.org
- **People First**
  - **Description:** An international movement focused on the philosophy that people are "People First," regardless of their disability.
  - **Website:** peoplefirst.org
- **Self-Advocacy Online**
  - **Description:** An educational resource providing accessible information about self-advocacy, research findings, and a directory of local groups.
  - **Website:** selfadvocacyonline.org
- **Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC)**
  - **Description:** A national hub that shares tools, success stories, and best practices to help self-advocacy groups grow and sustain themselves.
  - **Website:** selfadvocacyinfo.org
- **Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)**
  - **Description:** The premier national self-advocacy organization, working to ensure people with disabilities have the same rights and choices as all citizens.
  - **Website:** sabeusa.org

- **Speaking for Ourselves (SFO)**
  - **Description:** An independent grassroots, self-help/self-advocacy organization run by people with developmental disabilities.
  - **Website:** speaking.org

Colorado Self-Advocacy and Family Advocacy

State-specific resources focusing on legal rights, community living, and local leadership.

- **Colorado Advocates for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (COAIDD)**
  - **Description:** Focus on advocacy at the federal and state levels to protect and preserve HCBS Adult Waivers for individuals with IDD in Colorado.
  - **Website:** coaidd.org
- **Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC)**
  - **Description:** Colorado's leading advocacy organization for disability rights, focusing on systemic change and legal advocacy.
  - **Website:** ccdconline.org
- **Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (CDDC)**
  - **Description:** Advocate for systems change and provide capacity building to promote the independence and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
  - CDDC is the federally required Council representing people with I/DD in Colorado.
  - **Website:** coddc.org
- **Disability Justice**
  - **Description:** Protects and promotes the rights of people with disabilities in Colorado through direct legal representation, advocacy, education and legislative analysis.
  - Disability Justice is the federally required Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Agency for Colorado.
  - **Website:** disabilityjustice.co
- **El Grupo Vida**
  - **Description:** A network specifically dedicated to supporting Spanish-speaking families of children with disabilities and special health care needs.
  - **Website:** elgrupovida.org
- **Family Voices Colorado**
  - **Description:** A family-led organization that helps families of children and youth with special health care needs navigate complex healthcare systems.
  - **Website:** familyvoicesco.org

- **JFK Partners**
  - **Description:** Administers the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, which provides leadership training for self-advocates and families.
  - JFK Partners is the federally required University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in Colorado.
  - **Website:** jfkpartners.org
- **Parent to Parent Colorado (P2P-CO)**
  - **Description:** A grassroots network that connects parents of children with disabilities for 1:1 emotional support and resource sharing.
  - **Website:** p2p-co.org
- **Parents of Adults with Disabilities in Colorado (PAD-CO)**
  - **Description:** Advocate for legislative and regulatory changes for people with developmental disabilities on the federal, state and local levels.
  - **Website:** pad-co.info
- **PEAK Parent Center**
  - **Description:** Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). Provides training, information and technical assistance to equip families of children from birth to age 26 including all disability labels with strategies to advocate successfully for their children.
  - **Website:** peakparent.org
- **Special Olympics Colorado**
  - **Description:** Provides sports training and competition alongside their Athlete Leadership program where athletes gain leadership skills to serve as spokespeople and board members.
  - **Website:** specialolympicsco.org
- **Speaking for Ourselves (SFO) Colorado**
  - **Description:** A statewide grassroots self-advocacy organization. All members of SFO are people with disabilities.
  - **Website:** wespeakforourselves.com
- **We Show + Tell**
  - **Description:** Colorado's only Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) focusing on underserved parents; uses storytelling and advocacy to highlight lived experiences.
  - **Website:** weshowandtell.org

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The Arc Chapters in Colorado

Promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- The Arc of Colorado (Statewide): thearc.org/chapter/the-arc-of-colorado/
- Advocacy Denver: advocacydenver.org
- The Arc of Adams County: arcadams.org
- The Arc of Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert Counties: arc-ad.org
- The Arc of Aurora: thearcofaurora.org
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region: thearcppr.org
- The Arc of the Central Mountains: arccentralmountains.org
- The Arc of Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties: arcjc.org
- The Arc of Larimer County: thearcoflarimercounty.org
- The Arc of Mesa County: thearcmesa.org
- The Arc of Pueblo: www.arcofpueblo.org
- The Arc of Northeast Colorado: arcneco.org
- The Arc of Southwest Colorado: thearcofswco.org
- The Arc of West Central Colorado: arcwcco.org
- Association for Community Living - Boulder County: aclboulder.org

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Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Colorado

CILs are community-based agencies run by and for people with disabilities.

- Colorado SILC (Statewide Council): coloradosilc.org
- Atlantis Community, Inc. (Denver Metro): atlantiscommunity.org
- Center for Independence (Grand Junction): cfigj.org
- Center for People with Disabilities (CPWD - Boulder/North Metro): cpwd.org
- Center Toward Self-Reliance (Pueblo): cfdpueblo.org
- Connections for Independent Living (Greeley): connectionscolorado.org
- Disabled Resource Services (DRS - Fort Collins/Loveland): drsnoco.org
- The Independence Center (Colorado Springs): theindependencecenter.org
- Northwest Colorado Center for Independence (NWCCI - Steamboat Springs): nwcci.org
- Southwest Center for Independence (Durango): swindependence.org

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Research & Technology Resources

- **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)**
  - **Focus:** Investigates how assistive technology and cognitive accessibility enhance independence and self-advocacy.
  - **Website:** aaidd.org
- **Center for Innovative Design and Engineering (CIDE), University of Colorado**
  - **Focus:** Research and programs in Assistive Technology (AT) including specialty AT services to individuals of all ages, accessibility and usability consulting to business and organizations, and community oriented programs focusing on AT.
  - **Website:** ucdenver.edu/center-for-innovative-design-and-engineering
- **Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)**
  - **Focus:** Leading research on self-advocacy and self-directed services, providing data on how empowerment leads to better life outcomes.
  - **Website:** hsri.org