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ADVOCACY

Advocacy, Inc. (See Disability Rights Texas).


American Council of the Blind. National nonprofit membership organization of blind, visually impaired and sighted individuals, strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life, for all blind and visually-impaired people. Advocacy, information, publications and a daily listing of employment opportunities under its ACB “Job Connection.” Contact: 800-424-8666 or 202-467-5081. http://www.acb.org/


Association for Science in Autism Treatment (ASAT). National nonprofit organization committed to improving the education, treatment, and care of people with autism. Seeks to provide accurate, scientifically sound information about autism and treatments for autism and to improve access to effective, science-based treatments for all people with autism. Advocacy, information, resources, links. Contact: http://www.asatonline.org/

Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA). Nonprofit membership organization providing information, resources and networking opportunities to help adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder lead better lives and advocate for community resources. Contact: http://www.add.org/. Southern Region Chapter Contact: http://www.adda-sr.org/ 281-897-0982.


Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD). National nonprofit membership organization provides advocacy, resources, vocational and group support for individuals with AD/HD. English and Spanish. Contact: 800-233-4050. http://www.chadd.org


Coalition for Barrier Free Living. Brazoria County, Houston and Ft. Bend Centers for Independent Living promote the full inclusion, equal opportunity and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life. Services include: advocacy, information & referral, peer support, independent living skills training, links to other resources. Part of Texans for Independent Living. Contact: (713) 974-4621. www.houstoncil.org

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). Nonprofit disability advocacy organization controlled by individuals with disabilities. Offers legal information, market research and training. Seeks to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. Fee-based disability consulting services to businesses, corporations, governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Contact: 512-478-3366. http://www.txdisabilities.org/

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). International professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. Advocacy, special education, support services, resources. Contact: 888-232-7733 (toll-free); 866-915-5000 (TTY). http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home


Family to Family Network. Independent nonprofit grassroots organization providing advocacy, support, information & referrals, education and training for families of people with disabilities. Extensive links to resources, agencies and organizations. Contact: 713-466-6304. www.familytofamilynetwork.org

Houston Center for Independent Living. Contact: (713) 974-4621 or TTY Direct: (713) 974-2703. See Coalition for Barrier Free Living. www.houstoncil.org
Houston Council of the Blind. The mission of the Houston Council of the Blind (“HCB”) is to improve the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life for all persons who are blind or visually impaired. Contact: 713-520-9237. http://www.acbtexas.org/main_index.html

Houston Jewish Special Needs Group. Independent, parent-driven advocacy group promoting social activities, information and networking for Jewish families with children and young adults with special needs. A local forum is available at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houstonjewishspecialneeds/ Website: www.HoustonJewishSpecialNeeds.org. Contact: houstonjewishspecialneeds@yahoo.com


International OCD Foundation. International nonprofit membership organization seeking to advocate about, support research and raise awareness of issues surrounding obsessive compulsive behavior and the people who live with it. Contact: 617-973-5801 http://www.ocfoundation.org/

The Jewish Deaf Resource Center (JDRC). Advocacy and initiatives to increase communication access to services, rituals, learning and other Jewish communal experiences. Contact: 917-705-8941 (Voice) or 866-948-1771 (Videophone). http://www.jdrc.org/index.html

John Fair Ill Spinal Cord Injury Foundation. The mission of the John Fair III Spinal Cord Injury Foundation is to provide economic relief, education, and awareness to new and existing teens and young adults with spinal cord injuries. Contact: 713-253-5084. http://johnfair.org/

Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA). National nonprofit membership organization works on behalf of people with learning disabilities. Advocacy, information, resources, referrals. Contact: https://ldaamerica.org/parents/

LD Online. Nonprofit on-line resource seeking to help children, teens and adults reach their full potential by providing information and advice about learning disabilities and ADHD. Information, referral lists, resources, forums. A national educational service of WETA-TV, the PBS station in Washington, D.C. Contact: 703-998-2060. http://www.ldonline.org/

Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD- Houston). Advocacy, information and referrals for residents with disabilities in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area; assists clients in the resolution of complaints. Deals with emergency services, including free visual fire alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Facilitates the delivery of city services to individuals with disabilities and the removal of architectural, communication and attitudinal barriers in public and private programs and services; sponsors free legal clinics. Pedestrian Accessibility Review Program (PAR) provides side walk and curb cut installation where there is no accessible path of travel for persons with disabilities to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical clinics or doctors’ offices, school, church, bank or credit union, job sites or bus stop or Metrolift pick up area. Contact: 832-394-0814 or mopdmail@houstontx.gov. http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/index.html

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).  Nonprofit membership organization offering advocacy, peer support groups, information, referral and education.  Contact:  http://www.nami.org  Houston Contact: 713-970-4419


National Organization on Disability (NOD).  National nonprofit organization that raises disability awareness through programs, publications and its website.  Working with business, corporate, government and community leaders, it partners with a range of organizations and governments to remove barriers and change attitudes for people with disabilities.  Extensive links to housing, employment, education and other resources.  Contact: 646-505-1191.  http://www.nod.org/  

Paralyzed Veterans of America.  Paralyzed Veterans of America works to create an America where all veterans and people with disabilities, and their families, have everything they need to live full and productive lives.  Contact: 1-800-232-1782.  http://www.pva.org

RespectAbilities. A new national, non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to: (1) Reshape the attitudes of American society so that people with disabilities can more fully participate in and contribute to society, and (2) Empower people with disabilities to achieve as much of the American dream as their abilities and efforts permit. RespectAbility was founded to correct and prevent the current disparity of justice for people with disabilities: Contact: 202.517.6272 office http://respectabilityusa.com/

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD). State board appointed by the Governor, works with individuals, parents, family members, advocacy groups, state agencies, service providers and federal, state and local policymakers to increase individual choice and inclusion. English and Spanish. Contact: 800-262-0334 (toll-free) or 512-437-5432 (Voice). http://www.txddc.state.tx.us

Texas Council for Exceptional Children (TCEC). Nonprofit organization including professional educators, families and others working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities. Affiliated with CEC. Contact: http://community.cec.sped.org/tx/home

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. State of Texas agency whose mission is to work in partnership with Texans with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and to enable their full participation in society. Administers programs that help Texans with disabilities. English and Spanish. The department has four divisions: Rehabilitation Services

Blind Services

Early Childhood Intervention Services

Disability Determination Services

Contact: 800-628-5115 (Voice), 866-581-9328 (TTY). http://www.twc.state.tx.us/


Turning Point National Gulf Coast Turning Point is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization designed to teach people with mobility impairments the skills necessary to fully enjoy the outdoors, and to provide free or low cost activities. Contact: 409-939-4827. http://www.turningpointnation.org

United Way Of Greater Houston. The mission of the United Way is to increase the organized capacity of people to care for themselves and others and to mobilize our community to make lasting improvements in critical needs areas. Contact: 713-685-2300. [http://www.unitedwayhouston.org](http://www.unitedwayhouston.org)

Variety. Variety the Children's Charity of Texas, is dedicated to empowering children with disabilities through funding and special access to activities. Contact: 713-426-5437. [http://www.varietytexas.org](http://www.varietytexas.org)


VSA Texas. VSA Texas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that strives to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. Contact: 512-454-9912. [http://www.vsatx.org/](http://www.vsatx.org/)

Wrightslaw. Independent on-line resource seeking to provide parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys with accurate, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy. Seminars, extensive links, [Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities](http://www.yellowpages.com/), free e-newsletter. Contact: [http://www.wrightslaw.com/](http://www.wrightslaw.com/)

Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities. Nonprofit membership organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. Offers advocacy, education, resources, support and programs. A department of the Orthodox Union. Contact: 561-504-1033 or houstonyachad@ou.org

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

For children ages 3+ and older, request an evaluation at the nearest elementary school. A list of Greater Houston Area School Districts with their primary telephone numbers and websites may be found in the Addendum of this Guide. In Houston, call 713-556-7025. [http://www.houstonisd.org//Domain/15681](http://www.houstonisd.org//Domain/15681)

Autism Treatment Centers of Texas. Nonprofit organization provides assessment, information, life skills training and residential services in Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. Also provides services to individuals who are blind and/or deaf. Residential facilities are single family homes and duplexes, located in neighborhoods; programming, activities, living skills. Associated with Autism Society of America and National Association of Residential Providers for Adults with Autism. Licensed by TEA, Texas Department of MHMR, Home and Community based Services. Contact: 972-644-2076 (Dallas). 210-590-2107 (San Antonio). [http://www.atcoftexas.org](http://www.atcoftexas.org)

Baylor Psychiatry Clinic. Baylor College of Medicine, Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Adult outpatient clinic. Comprehensive assessment and treatment for psychiatric, psychological and relationship difficulties; evaluation, treatment and counseling. Fees: insurance accepted; sliding scale is available. Contact: 713-798-4857. [http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=2029](http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=2029)

Center for Hearing and Speech. Nonprofit United Way agency providing a range of resources and services for children (ages 0-18) with hearing impairment and their families. Assessment, audiology and speech clinics, play therapy, individual and family counseling, parent support groups and auditory-oral school (ages 18 mos. – 7 yrs.). Houston, TX. Contact: 713-523-3633. [http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/](http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/)

Children’s Learning Institute. Part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, CLI is a source for proven clinical and educational programs covering early childhood through late teens. Services include clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment of learning disorders, and research on techniques to enhance a child’s home and learning environment. Contact: 713-500-3709. [https://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/](https://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/)


Harris County Psychiatric Center. Outpatient and in-patient diagnostic assessment and treatment for children, adolescents & adults. English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Fees, Insurance. Part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Outpatient Services provided by the University of Texas Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Contact: 713-741-5000 [https://hcpc.uth.edu/](https://hcpc.uth.edu/)

Houston Independent School District (HISD). The largest independent school district in the Greater Houston Area, HISD offers a wide range of ancillary educational and supportive services to its students and parents. Contact: 713-556-7121. [http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7888](http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7888)

• Special Education. Instructional and related services are available in all HISD schools. English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Contact: 713-556-7025. [http://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/15681](http://www.houstonisd.org/Domain/15681)

IntraCare Behavioral Health. Non-profit behavioral health facility providing inpatient and outpatient mental health and dependency services for people of all ages. Affiliated with NIMH and NAMI. Contact: North Hospital: 281-893-7200. [http://www.intracare.org/pages/programs.htm](http://www.intracare.org/pages/programs.htm)


Menninger Clinic. Affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Offers both inpatient and outpatient assessments and therapy.

• Adolescent Treatment Program. Adolescents (ages 12-17) with behavior or substance abuse issues or psychiatric disorders.
• Compass Young Adult Treatment Program. Ages: 18-30 with psychiatric disorders.
• Hope Adult Program. Individualized treatment for adults (ages 18+).
All programs contact: 713-275-5000 or 800-351-9058 (toll-free). [http://www.menningerclinic.com/](http://www.menningerclinic.com/)
THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD - Dedicated to providing or ensuring provision of services and supports to people with mental disabilities and their families. Fee: Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, adjustable fees. Contact: 24-hour Help Line: 713-970-7000 or 866-970-4770 (toll-free). 800-735-2988 (Hearing impaired)  http://www.mhmraharris.org/

- Adult Mental Health.
- Children and Adolescent Services.
- Intellectual and Autism Services (IDD).
- Crisis and Emergency Services.

Contact: 713-970-7000 Help Line 24 hours a day for questions or support.

The Monarch School. Private accredited nonprofit school in Houston, TX, for children who have neurological differences: pre-K through 12th grade. Diagnostic Clinic offers assessment services including: speech and language, academic, adaptive behavior, psychological, and/or psycho-educational assessments. School, summer program, life academy, learning center, workshops. Fees. Contact: 713-479-0800. http://www.monarchinstitute.org/about-us


Texas Children’s Hospital. Nationally recognized nonprofit comprehensive children’s hospital located in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. Special needs departments include:

- Pediatric Neurology Clinic. Offers diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for a wide range of neurological disorders. Contact: https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/neurology
- Psychiatry Clinic. Offers psychiatric evaluations and pharmacological management of neuropsychiatric symptomatology, Contact: 832-822-3750  https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry
- Psychology Center. Children and teens are evaluated and treated for a wide range of conditions, from learning disorders and ADHD to behavioral and anxiety disorders. Contact: 832-822-3700.
- Speech, Language and Learning Clinic. Offering evaluation, management and consultation for infants, children, adolescents and adults with oral and/or written language difficulties: communication, learning, feeding and/or swallowing problems related to a broad range of physical and neurological conditions. Collaborative of various Texas Children’s Hospital departments and clinics; affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. Family referrals accepted. Fees. Contact: 832-822-3280. http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org/Locate/Departments-and-Services/Ear,-Nose-and-Throat/Speech-Language-and-Learning/


University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston - Harris County Psychiatric Center. Outpatient and inpatient diagnostic assessment and treatment for children, adolescents & adults. English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Fees, Insurance. Contact: 713-741-5000  https://hcpc.uth.edu/

West Oaks Hospital. Fully accredited private psychiatric hospital providing inpatient and out-patient services for children, adolescents and adults. Assessment, 24-hours-a-day admission, crisis intervention. Joint Commission
CAMPS

Inclusion in this list does not imply verification or endorsement. Although some camp websites refer to accommodations or programs for people with special needs, it is prudent to check directly with the camp about the range of services, any limitations or restrictions and fees.

The Arc of Greater Houston. Comprehensive nonprofit agency providing information, referrals, resources and services to children and adults with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Summer Camp programs help individuals with disabilities of all ages learn new skills, strengthen physical and mental well-being, and build self-esteem.

Day Camps. Theme-based, age appropriate activities in one-week sessions for individuals (ages 4-14). Sports and Life Skills Camp. One-week sessions of team sports, swimming, bowling and arts & crafts for individuals (ages 15-25).

Residential Inclusion Camp for individuals (ages 10-30) with and without developmental disabilities held at Camp for All, Burton, Texas.


Brain Injury Association of Texas. Nonprofit organization for brain injury survivors, family members and advocates. Offers day and residential camps and retreats, advocacy, support group, referrals and educational resources for children and adults who have suffered traumatic brain injury. Contact: 800-392-0040 (toll-free). http://www.texasbia.org/


Camp C.A.M.P. (Children’s Association for Maximum Potential) Summer camp sessions for children with special needs (ages 5-21). Activities also provided for siblings without disabilities. Private nonprofit agency funded by United Way of Bexar County, TX; accredited by American Camp Association. Also offers a Respite Club. Sliding fee scale. Contact. (210) 671-5411. http://www.campcamp.org/
Camp Chazak. A program of URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, provides a camping experience for participants 9 to 13 years old whose social delays impair their ability to function in a typical camp environment.  Contact: 201-722-0400.  http://eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org/chazak/

Camp for All. A barrier-free, completely accessible camping and retreat facility, working in partnership with special needs groups to enrich the lives of people with chronic illnesses and disabilities. Many different programs are offered to campers of all ages and abilities. Located between Houston and Austin near Burton, TX.  Contact: 713-686-1242.  http://campforall.org

Camp HASC. Seven-week residential camp in the Catskill Mountains (NY) for children and adults with mental and physical handicaps. Program offers blend of recreational and learning experiences. Sponsored by the Hebrew Academy for Special Children, a nonprofit organization.  Contact: 718-686-5930.  http://www.hasc.net/camp/


Camp Janus. Annual weekend camping adventure for children (ages 5 – 18) who have sustained a burn injury. Held at Camp for All in Burton, Texas.  Contact: 281-947-2154  http://www.campjanus.org/


Camp Ramah Darom. Tikvah is an engaging, fun filled, four-week camping experience led by experience, professionally educated and trained counselors that develops interaction, social skills and problem solving abilities. It enables campers to build sense of autonomy and independence while nurturing their Jewish identity within an inclusive, Jewish environment. Jewish overnight camp specifically for children 12 though 17 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.  Contact Geoffrey Menkowitz  404-531-0801  http://www.ramahdarom.org/

CampResource.com. Online listing of camps throughout North America serving children with different challenges. Options include sorting by state, type of camp and type of disability.  Contact: (970) 524-2706 http://www.campresource.com/summer-camps/special-needs
Camp Reynal. A camp for children with renal and urology disease, providing a full range of camping experiences. Provides on-site dialysis. Sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation  
**Contact:** 214-351-2393.  
http://www.campreynal.org

Camp Sign. A camp for boys and girls (ages 8 – 17) who are deaf or hard of hearing in a communication barrier-free environment held at Camp Misty Meadows in Conroe, TX. A C.I.T. program is also available. Camp operates under Division for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS). Fees, sliding scale. **Contact:** Phone: 512-407-3250  
TTY: 512-407-3251  
http://ncpad.org/15/Programs/9848

Camp Smiles. Week-long residential summer camp for children (ages 6 – 14) with cerebral palsy. Held at Camp for All. Sponsored by Easter Seals of Greater Houston. **Contact:** 713-838-9050.  
http://www.eastersealshouston.org/Children/camps.html

Camp Spike ‘n’ Wave. Week-long residential camp for children (ages 8-14) with a primary diagnosis of epilepsy. Held at Camp for All in Burton, Texas. Free of charge. Sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas. **Contact:** 713-789-6295.  
http://www.eftx.org/camp.htm

Camp Summit. Independent nonprofit United Way agency offering residential barrier-free camp in Argyle, TX for individuals (ages 6–adult) who are physically challenged, developmentally delayed, dual-sensory impaired or who have multiple disabilities. Accredited by the American Camping Association; licensed by the State of Texas. **Contact:** 972-484-8900.  
http://www.campsummittx.org/

Camp Sweeney. Week-long residential camp in Gainesville, TX for children (ages 5-18) with Type 1 Diabetes. Sponsored by Southwest Diabetes Foundation. Financial assistance available. **Contact:** 940-665-2011.  
http://www.campsweeney.org

American Camp Association Online camp resource for parents and families, sponsored by the American Camp Association (ACA). Camp-related resources and an extensive database of over 2400 ACA accredited camps - searchable by various criteria including special needs, affiliation, cultural focus, age, location. **Contact:** 800-428-2267http://acacamps.org

Down Home Ranch Camp. Week-long residential camp in Elgin, TX for children (ages 13+) and adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Campers must be physically and emotionally well. Also offers respite week-ends. Licensed by Texas Dept. of Health. **Contact:** 512-856-0128 or 888-926-2253 (toll-free).  
http://www.downhomeranch.org/prgsummercamp.shtml

Epilepsy Foundation of Texas. Nonprofit organization sponsors several residential camps and retreats for children and teens with a primary diagnosis of epilepsy. Also offers week-end retreats for adults and families.  
**Camp Spike ‘n’ Wave:** for children with epilepsy (ages 8-14).  
**Kamp Kaleidoscope:** for teens with epilepsy (ages 15-19).  
**Camp Neuron:** for children with epilepsy (ages 8-14).  
**Contact:** 713-789-6295. 888-548-9716 (Toll free) http://eftx.org/

Foundation for Jewish Camping. Provides information about 130+ nonprofit Jewish overnight camps as well as financial and programming resources to camps, campers and their families across North America. “Find a Jewish Camp” search tool can be customized for Special Needs programs. Offers a Directory of Camp Scholarships. **Contact:** 888-888-4819  
http://www.jewishcamp.org/

Hope Village. Private nonprofit organization providing residential, day, respite and summer programs in Friendswood, TX. Summer day program designed for school-aged children (12+). Daily activities include crafts,
swimming, field trips, and other activities. Enrollment limited. Contact: 281-482-7926.  [http://www.hope-village.com](http://www.hope-village.com)


**The Lighthouse of Houston.** A private, nonprofit United Way agency. Offers summer day camp program for visually impaired and blind children. Contact 713-527-9561.  [http://www.houstonlighthouse.org](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org)

**Marbridge Summer Camp.** Residential summer camp for young adults (ages 16-30) with cognitive challenges. One week sessions. Manchaca, TX. Contact: 512-282-1144.  [http://www.marbridge.org/summer-camp](http://www.marbridge.org/summer-camp)

**Muscular Dystrophy Association.** Offers one week residential summer camp for children (ages 6-21) with neuromuscular diseases at Camp for All, Burton, TX. Contact: 713-522-8561  [https://www.mda.org/](https://www.mda.org/)

**Mysummercamps.com.** Online listing of summer day and residential camps throughout North America with links to individual camp websites; large section for special needs camps. Its inclusion in this list implies neither verification of its listings nor an endorsement. Contact:  [http://www.mysummercamps.com/camps/Special_Needs_Camps/index.html](http://www.mysummercamps.com/camps/Special_Needs_Camps/index.html)

**Pasadena Parks and Recreation.** The Verne Cox Multipurpose Recreation Center is a facility specifically dedicated to recreational activities, programs, and events for youth and adults with disabilities. Programs include: wheelchair sports, Special Olympics, after-school, support groups, fitness, aquatics and summer day. Fees. Pasadena TX. Contact: 713-475-7048.  [http://www.ci.pasadena.tx.us/default.aspx?name=prk.fac_v_cox](http://www.ci.pasadena.tx.us/default.aspx?name=prk.fac_v_cox)

**Pathfinders Camp.** Therapeutic camp for emotionally disturbed and/or learning disabled boys (ages 11 to 17). Accredited academics provided at the campsite by certified special education teachers under the supervision of the Charter School of the University of Texas at Austin. Licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Contact: 512-471-4864

**River Oaks Academy.** Offers summer day camp for children and adolescents (ages 5 to 15) with ADD/ADHD or conduct disorder. Contact: 713-783–7200.  [http://www.riveroaksacademy.com/summer-camp-home.html](http://www.riveroaksacademy.com/summer-camp-home.html)

**SHMA Camps.** Offers several residential camps in New York for Jewish Orthodox boys and girls:  
* **Camp Mogen Avraham** offers:*  
  • *Chaverim*, a 6-week camp for boys (ages 8+) with Developmental Disabilities.  
  *Camp Sternberg* offers:*  
  • *Kesher*, a program for girls with special needs who are integrated into the daily program;  
  • *Mishkan*, a program for girls with serious developmental challenges; separate program and facilities.
Texas Asthma Camp for Kids. Week-long residential camp for children with asthma. Organized and sponsored by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Contact: 903-877-7075. [http://shmacamps.org/](http://shmacamps.org/)


Texas Lions Camp. Residential camp in Kerrville, TX for children (ages 7-16) with physical disabilities, cancer, Type 1 diabetes, visual or hearing impairment. Transportation may be available through local Lions Clubs. Contact: 830-896-8500. [http://www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com)

**COUNSELING, CLINICS, PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL SERVICES**

Baylor Psychiatry Clinic (See Menninger Clinic below). Adult outpatient clinic. Comprehensive assessment and treatment for psychiatric, psychological and relationship difficulties; evaluation, treatment and counseling. Affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. Fees: some insurance accepted; sliding scale is available. Contact: 713-798-4857. [http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=2029](http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=2029)


Harris County Hospital District. Provides access to cost-effective, quality health care to all residents of Harris County, regardless of ability to pay. Emergency inpatient and outpatient psychiatric and counseling services at Ben Taub and Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Hospitals. English and Spanish. Contact: Ben Taub: 713-873-2000; LBJ: 713-566-5000. http://www.hchdonline.com

Harris County Psychiatric Center. Outpatient and in-patient diagnostic assessment and treatment for children, adolescents & adults. English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Fees, Insurance. Part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Outpatient Services provided by the University of Texas Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Contact: 713-741-5000. https://hcpc.uth.edu/

Houston Independent School District (HISD). The largest independent school district in Texas, HISD offers a wide range of ancillary educational and supportive services to its students and parents. Contact: 713-556-7121. http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7888

• HISD Psychological Services. Counselor or nurse will help find psychological services. In an emergency, a psychologist from HISD will visit the child at school and refer the child to an agency. English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic. Contact: 713-696-6430. http://www.houstonisd.org//Domain/8052


Menninger Clinic. Affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Offers both inpatient and outpatient assessments and therapy.

• Adolescent Treatment Program. Adolescents (ages 12-17) with behavior or substance abuse issues or psychiatric disorders.

• Compass Young Adult Treatment Program. Ages: 18-30 with psychiatric disorders.

• Hope Adult Program. Individualized treatment for adults (ages 18+).

All programs contact: 713-275-5000 or 800-351-9058 (toll-free). http://www.menningerclinic.com/

The following services are also affiliated with The Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences: Contact: 713-798-4857. www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=1800


Contact: 713-873-2000.

• **Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.** Mental health services for veterans; inpatient and outpatient services. **Contact:** 713-791-1414 or 1-800-553-2278 (toll-free). [https://www.houston.va.gov/](https://www.houston.va.gov/)

• **Texas Children’s Hospital.** Psychiatry Service provides consultation, liaison and outpatient services. Fees. **Contact:** 832-822-3750 [http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=1821](http://www.bcm.edu/psychiatry/?PMID=1821)

**THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD** Dedicated to providing or ensuring provision of services and supports to people with mental disabilities and their families. Fee: Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, adjustable fees. **Contact:** 24-hour Help Line: 713-970-7000 or 866-970-4770 (toll-free). 800-735-2988 (Hearing impaired) [http://www.mhmrharris.org/](http://www.mhmrharris.org/)
  - Adult Mental Health.
  - Children and Adolescent Services.
  - Intellectual and Autism Services (IDD).
  - Crisis and Emergency Services.
**Contact:** 713-970-7070 Helpline 24 hours a day for questions or support.

The Montrose Center. Independent nonprofit agency providing individual, couples/family and group psychotherapy and case management services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBT) persons. United Way Agency. Fee: sliding scale; accepts private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid.  **Contact:** 713-529-0037. [http://www.montrosecenter.org](http://www.montrosecenter.org)

713-529-3211 24-Hour Crisis Line / Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
832.413.6192 Videophone (hearing impaired)
866.327.7477 Voice for Hearing (hearing impaired; toll-free)


Texas Children’s Hospital. Nationally recognized nonprofit comprehensive children’s hospital located in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. Special needs departments include:

• **Autism Center.** Offers a multi-disciplinary approach to evaluation, planning, therapy. **Contact:** 832-822-1900. [https://www.texasspecialchildren.org/departments/autism](https://www.texasspecialchildren.org/departments/autism)

• **Pediatric Neurology Clinic.** Offers diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for a wide range of neurological disorders

• **Psychiatry Clinic.** Offers psychiatric evaluations and pharmacological management of neuropsychiatric symptomatology, **Contact:** 832-822-3750 [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry)

• **Psychology Center.** Children and teens are evaluated and treated for a wide-range of conditions, from learning disorders and ADHD to behavioral and anxiety disorders. **Contact:** 832-822-3700. [https://www.texasspecialchildrens.org/departments/Psychology/](https://www.texasspecialchildrens.org/departments/Psychology/)

• **Speech, Language and Learning Clinic.** Offering evaluation, management and consultation for infants, children, adolescents and adults with oral and/or written language difficulties: communication, learning, feeding and/or swallowing problems related to a broad range of physical and neurological conditions. Collaborative of various Texas Children’s Hospital Departments and Clinics; affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. Family referrals accepted. Fees. **Contact:** 832-822-3280. [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning)

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston - Harris County Psychiatric Center. Outpatient and inpatient diagnostic assessment and treatment for children, adolescents & adults. English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Fees: Sliding scale, Medicare, Medicaid. **Contact:** 713-741-5000 [https://hcpc.uth.edu/](https://hcpc.uth.edu/)

West Oaks Hospital. Inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services for children, adolescents and adults.

**CRISIS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES. 9-1-1**  
Call “911” for crisis or emergency services.

There are several crisis and emergency services available through Harris County.

**The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD** provides outpatient services and operates the NeuroPsychiatric Center providing 24-hour crisis evaluation and treatment.  
**Ben Taub General Hospital** operates emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services for persons eligible for Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) services.

**Ben Taub General Hospital**. 24-hour emergency services. Psychiatry Department services individuals in Harris County without regard to financial or insurance status. Inpatient and outpatient services. Spanish and English. Contact: 713-873-2000. [https://www.harrishealth.org/locations-hh/Pages/ben-taub.aspx](https://www.harrishealth.org/locations-hh/Pages/ben-taub.aspx)


**Houston Area Women’s Center.** Crisis intervention, emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, counseling, preventive programming, advocacy. United Way agency. English and Spanish. Contact: Domestic Violence Hotline: 713-528-2121; TDD – 713-528-3625; 800-256-0551  
Sexual Assault Hotline: 713-528-7273; TDD 713-528-3691; 800-256-0661 [https://www.hawc.org/](https://www.hawc.org/)

**Heal Well Medical Supply**  281-645-6568 [www.healwellmedicalsupply.com](http://www.healwellmedicalsupply.com)

**Kinder Emergency Shelter.** Temporary emergency shelter for youth (ages 12-17) who need to be separated from threatening home situations. Works with Child Protective Services. Contact CPS: 713-295-2700

**THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD** -Multiple psychiatric emergency services for Harris County residents. (For further information, see NeuroPsychiatric Center below) Contact: 713-970-7000 [http://www.mhmraharris.org/](http://www.mhmraharris.org/)

**Nation Organization on Disability/ Emergency Preparedness Initiative** 202-293-5960 [www.nod.org/emergencyepi@nod.org](http://www.nod.org/emergencyepi@nod.org)

**Neuro-Psychiatric Center. (NPC) The Harris Center.** Crisis and emergency center.  
Location: Ben Taub Hospital, 1502 Taub Loop, Houston, TX. (Texas Medical Center). Open 24 hours a day. Ring doorbell left of sliding glass doors for entry between midnight and 7 a.m. Parking – Ben Taub Visitor Parking (fee) Contact: 713-970-7000 (HelpLine 24-hours-a-day). [http://www.mhmraharris.org/](http://www.mhmraharris.org/)

**Emergency Mental Health Help Outside of Harris County, Texas.** Call 9-1-1

**EDUCATION RESOURCES AND SCHOOLS**
The following schools, organizations and institutions provide a wide range of services and assistance to individuals, families, advocates and educators seeking educational information about a particular diagnosis, approaches, treatment options, training, workshops, help in locating appropriate schools and/or facilities, etc. Individuals are strongly encouraged to research in depth any school or organization for its appropriateness for particular circumstances.

**American Council of the Blind.** National membership organization of blind and visually impaired people providing advocacy, information, publications and a daily listing of employment opportunities under its ACB job bank and connection.  **Contact:** 202-467-5081 or 800-424-8666.  [http://www.acb.org/](http://www.acb.org/)

**The Arbor School.** Independent, non-profit co-educational school for children with primary diagnoses of mental retardation, developmental delays or multiple disabilities. Pre-school (ages 0-5), Arbor School (K-12), Rehabilitation. Three levels of care and tuition; limited financial aid. Accredited by NPSAA.  **Contact:** 713-827-8830.  [http://www.arbor.org/index.php](http://www.arbor.org/index.php)

**The Arc of Greater Houston.** Nonprofit organization committed to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Advocacy, support groups, programs for individuals with disabilities, resources, research, referral, respite services, camps, social. Affiliated with The Arc of Texas and The Arc of the United States.  **English & Spanish. Contact:** 713-957-1600.  [http://www.aogh.org](http://www.aogh.org)

**Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA).** Nonprofit membership organization providing information, support, networking and workshops for parents of children or teenagers with ADD/ADHD.  **Houston Chapter Contact:** 281-897-0982.  [http://www.adda-sr.org/](http://www.adda-sr.org/)

**Avondale House.** Houston, Texas non-profit United Way agency providing year-round education services to children (ages 3-22), a day habilitation program for young adults and residential services for children and young adults (ages 4-40) with autism. The school is accredited by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.  **Contact:** 713-993-9544.  [http://www.avondalehouse.org/](http://www.avondalehouse.org/)

**Bendwood Elementary School.** Offers preschool program for children with disabilities (ages 3-5); family referrals accepted. C.U.B.S. (Communication Upholding Behavior/Social skills) for children (pre-K) with diagnosed Autism spectrum disorders. Spring Branch Independent School District, Houston, TX.  **Contact:** 713-251-5200.  [http://bwe.springbranchisd.com/](http://bwe.springbranchisd.com/)


**Briarwood School.** Independent, non-profit, co-educational day school for children with learning differences and/or developmental challenges. Also sponsors summer camps. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Houston, TX.  **Contact:** 281-493-1070.  [http://www.briarwoodschool.org/](http://www.briarwoodschool.org/)

**Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE).** Part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, the BJE offers: **Kesher** (linking children with learning differences to Jewish educational opportunities), information and referral, advocacy for children with special needs in the Jewish community, parent support groups and workshops, monthly Sunday School classes for children who are unable to function in a regular program.  **Contact:** 713-729-7000.  [https://www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/jewish-education](https://www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/jewish-education)
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. Houston-based private nonprofit United Way agency offers employment-related services to a diverse challenged population including job-readiness training, placement assistance, job retention training, placement, coaching, support services, computer literacy training, benefits counseling. Career Counseling services offer educational and vocational guidance. Links to other sites. Contact: 713-754-7000.  http://www.careerandrecovery.org/


Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD). National nonprofit membership organization provides advocacy, resources, vocational and group support for individuals with AD/HD. English & Spanish. Contact: 800-233-4050.  http://www.chadd.org

Collaborative for Children. Houston nonprofit organization works in partnership with agencies and organizations to provide information, referrals and resources to children and parents. English & Spanish. Contact: 713-600-1100.  http://www.collabforchildren.org/

Congregation Emanu El. Both the Becker Early Childhood Center and the Helfman Religious School welcome and accommodate children who learn differently. Special classes for pre- B’nai Mitzvah students, with a variety of learning challenges and special needs, blend together tailored and enhanced curriculum and objectives. Houston, Texas. Contact: 713-529-5771.  http://www.emanuelhouston.org/

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). International professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities: students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. Advocacy, education, support services, resources. Contact: 888-232-7733 (Voice); 866-915-5000 (TTY).  https://www.cec.sped.org/About-Us

Crossroads School. Private non-profit school (K-10) Prepares students with learning differences to transition to a conventional school. Contact: 713-977-1221.  https://www.crossroadshouston.org/

Disability.gov. On-line connection to the federal government’s disability-related information, programs and resources on numerous subjects, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, technology and transportation. Includes Federal job listings, links to employment opportunities and to state and local resources. Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Contact:  https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/disability.htm


Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT). Independent nonprofit organization providing advocacy, information, resources and support for families of children with autism. Special emphasis is on early diagnosis and ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis). Houston Chapter Contact: (281) 361-3328  http://www.feathouston.org/
The Family Center on Technology and Disabilities. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs; offers a wide range of information and resources about assistive technology. Contact: (202) 884-8588 http://www.ctdstitute.org


Foundation for the School for Young Children (SYC). Private non-profit foundation. Diagnostic, remediation and educational services are provided through:

- School for Young Children. Serves children who have language/learning disabilities to such an extent that they do not profit from instruction in a more traditional environment. The cause of these learning problems is usually an inability to process information/instruction. Affiliated with the University of St. Thomas. Contact: 713-520-8310. http://www.foundationsyc.org/school.html

- Robert J. Strudler Diagnostic and Remediation Center. Offers quality and affordable psycho-educational evaluation of children and adults to determine if there is a learning disability, and to provide recommendations for remedial or compensatory programs. Contact: 713-520-8002. http://www.foundationsyc.org/diagnostic.html


The Harris School. Private school (pre-school through grade 8) for children who are not functioning at their full potential in a traditional setting, due to underlying social or emotional difficulties. Accredited by SACS CASI. Contact 713-526-2046. http://www.theharrisschool.com/


The Horizons School. Birmingham. AL residential program offering a non-degree post-secondary transitions program designed to facilitate personal, social and career independence for students with mild learning disabilities and other mild challenges. Contact: 800-822-6242 (toll-free). http://horizonsschool.org/about_horizons/welcome.html

Houston Independent School District (HISD). The largest independent school district in Texas, HISD offers a wide range of ancillary educational and supportive services to its students and parents. Contact: 713-556-7121. http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7888

HUB Houston.  A relationship –centered educational program for young adults with neurological differences. We are bringing to life in a community where members are Heard, Understood and Believed in.  
**Contact:** 346-701-1714  [http://www.thehubhouston.org](http://www.thehubhouston.org)


Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.  Sponsors Kesher (linking children with learning differences to Jewish educational opportunities), information and referral, advocacy for children with special needs in the Jewish community, parent support groups and workshops, monthly Sunday School classes for children who are unable to function in a regular program.  Jewish Network of Special Education Professionals.  Part-time Special Education Consultant.  **Contact:** 713-729-7000.  [http://www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org)

Kesher.  A project of the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.  Advocates for children with special needs, offers family support, monthly meetings, referrals, resources.  Also sponsors Sunday School classes for children who learn differently.  **Contact:** 713-729-7000.  [http://www.houstonjewish.org/](http://www.houstonjewish.org/)


Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA).  National nonprofit membership organization works on behalf of people with learning disabilities.  Advocacy, information, resources, referrals.  **Contact:**  Texas:  [https://ldaamerica.org/lda-chapters/texas/](https://ldaamerica.org/lda-chapters/texas/)

LD Online. Seeks to help children, teens and adults reach their full potential by providing information and advice about learning disabilities and ADHD.  Information, referral lists, resources, forums.  Sponsored by Washington D.C. PBS station WETA.  **Contact:**  [http://www.ldonline.org/](http://www.ldonline.org/)

Lighthouse of Houston.  Private, nonprofit United Way agency offering a wide variety of educational programs, community services, and outpatient rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired.  **Contact:** 713-527-9561.  [http://www.houstonlighthouse.org](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org)

Melinda Webb School.  Part of The Center for Hearing and Speech.  Offers Oral Deaf Education for children (ages 18 months - 6 years) who are deaf or have a profound hearing loss, with the goal of transitioning each child into mainstream traditional school programs.  Multiple accreditations.  **Contact:** 713-523-3633.  [http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/melinda-webb-school](http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/melinda-webb-school)

Mental Health America of Greater Houston.  Houston nonprofit agency working to promote mental health and to improve the care and treatment of persons living with mental illness through education and advocacy. Advocacy, education, information & referral, resources.  Also:  [Children’s Mental Health Action Network Resource Guide](https://mhahouston.org/channels-resource CENTER).  **Contact:** 713-523-8963, Therapist Referral Line: 713-255-2048.  [http://www.mhahouston.org](http://www.mhahouston.org/)
THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD  Dedicated to providing or ensuring provision of services and supports to people with mental disabilities and their families. Fee: Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, adjustable fees. Contact: 24-hour Help Line: 713-970-7000 or 866-970-4770 (toll-free). 800-735-2988 (Hearing impaired) http://www.mhmraharris.org/index.asp

• Adult Mental Health
• Children and Adolescent Services
• Intellectual and Autism Services (IDD)
• Crisis and Emergency Services

Contact: 713-970-7000 HelpLine 24 hours a day for questions or support.

The Monarch School. Private non-profit accredited school (pre-K through 12th grade) for children with neurological differences and special learning needs. Day Program: academics and skills; Summer Program: subject and skill strengthening; Learning Center: speakers and workshops; Life Academy: life skills, workforce skills and development, internships. Contact: 713-479-0800. http://www.monarchschool.org/


National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD). National nonprofit organization providing advocacy, information, resources, educational tools, support and multiple links for families and professionals Contact: 718-245-2212 or 888-575-7373 (toll-free). http://www.udlcenter.org


National Center on Universal Design for Learning www.Udlcenter.org 718-245-2212

National Organization on Disability (NOD). National nonprofit organization that raises disability awareness through programs, publications and its website. Working with business, corporate, government and community leaders, it partners with a range of organizations and governments to remove barriers and change attitudes for people with disabilities. Extensive links to housing, employment, education and other resources. Contact: 646-505-1191. http://www.nod.org/


OASIS @ MAAP. Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome for families, individuals, and medical professionals. Provides articles, educational resources, links to local, national and international support groups, sources of professional help, lists of camps and schools, conference information, recommended reading, and moderated support message boards. Contact: http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/
The Parish School. Accredited, private, non-profit, non-denominational school for children (18 months - 5th grade) whose mission is to identify, educate and empower children with language and learning differences and average or above average learning potential. **Contact:** 713-467-4696. [http://www.parishschool.org/](http://www.parishschool.org/)

Partners Resource Network. Operates three regional federally funded Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI) serving Texas parents of children and youth (ages 0-22) with disabilities. Advocacy, information and referral, extensive links to resources, information. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. **Contact:** Houston 713-524-2147 or 877-832-8945 (toll-free). [http://www.partnerstx.org/](http://www.partnerstx.org/)

Reach Unlimited. Nonprofit organization serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education, vocational training, supported employment, and residential services. Clients also volunteer in the community. Northwest Harris County, TX. **Contact:** 281-469-8058. [http://www.reachunlimited.org](http://www.reachunlimited.org)

The Rise School of Houston. Private non-profit school providing early childhood education services to children (ages 6 months- 6 years) born with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. Affiliated with Texas Children’s Hospital. Tuition. **Contact:** 713-532-7473. [http://www.riseschool.org/](http://www.riseschool.org/)


The School for Young Children. Private special education elementary school serves children (ages 5-12) who have language/learning disabilities to such an extent that they do not profit from instruction in a more traditional environment. Affiliated with the University of St. Thomas. **Contact:** 713-520-8310. [http://www.foundationsyc.org/school.html](http://www.foundationsyc.org/school.html)

Sight into Sound. Independent non-profit organization (formerly Taping for the Blind). Provides Radio Reading, Custom Recording and Audio Description services for blind and others who, through various causes, cannot read normal printed material. **Contact:** 713-622-2767. [http://sightintosound.org/](http://sightintosound.org/)

Special Schools Coalition of Houston-[https://www.sschouston.org/member-schools](https://www.sschouston.org/member-schools)


Texas Children’s Hospital. Nationally recognized nonprofit comprehensive children’s hospital located in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. Special needs departments include:

- **Autism Center.** Offers a multi-disciplinary approach to evaluation, planning, therapy. **Contact:** 832-822-1900. [http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org](http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org)

- **Pediatric Neurology Clinic.** Offers diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for a wide range of neurological disorders.

- **Psychiatry Clinic.** Offers psychiatric evaluations and pharmacological management of neuropsychiatric symptomatology. **Contact:** 832-822-3750 [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry)

- **Psychology Center.** Children and teens are evaluated and treated for a wide-range of conditions, from learning disorders and ADHD to behavioral and anxiety disorders. **Contact:** 832-822-3700. [http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org/Locate/Departments-and-Services/Psychology/](http://www.texaschildrenshospital.org/Locate/Departments-and-Services/Psychology/)
• **Speech, Language and Learning Clinic.** Offering **evaluation, management and consultation** for infants, children, adolescents and adults with oral and/or written language difficulties: communication, learning, feeding and/or swallowing problems related to a broad range of physical and neurological conditions. Collaborative of various Texas Children’s Hospital Departments and Clinics; affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. Family referrals accepted. Fees. **Contact:** 832-822-3280.  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning)

**Texas Education Agency (TEA).** Texas state agency whose mission is to provide leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students. Resource for and information about special education resources and requirements. English and Spanish. **Contact:** 512-463-9734. [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/)

**Texas Parent to Parent.** Independent nonprofit organization providing support, information, resources, parent-parent peer support for families of children with disabilities. Extensive links to local and national resources. **Contact:** 866-896-6001. [http://www.txp2p.org/](http://www.txp2p.org/)

**Tourette Syndrome Association.** National nonprofit organization provides advocacy, information, referral, educational resources, teacher guides, strategies and support. Newsletters for youth and young adults. Local and state chapters. **Contact:** 718-224-2999. [https://www.tourette.org/](https://www.tourette.org/)


**Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities.** Nonprofit membership organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. A department of the Orthodox Union. Offers advocacy, education, resources, support and programs. **Contact:** 561-504-1033 or [https://www.yachad.org/](https://www.yachad.org/)

**EMPLOYMENT, JOB TRAINING, LIFE SKILLS.**

*The following agencies and/or organizations offer supportive resources and services in the areas of life skills, job/vocational training, job-readiness, retention and vocational training; some offer employment counseling, supported employment and job coaching.*

**Ability Connection.** Provide a full range of services for people with physical and intellectual disabilities as they strive to achieve their highest level of independence. 214-351-2500/ 800-999-1898 Houston 713-826-5851 [https://abilityconnection.org/](https://abilityconnection.org/)

**American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).** National nonprofit cross-disability member organization dedicated to ensuring economic and political empowerment of people with disabilities. Works in coalition with other disability organizations and advocates for the implementation and enforcement of laws for people with disabilities. Advocacy, information & referral, resources. Complaint pages link to various government agencies and other organizations. **Contact:** 800-840-8844 (V/TTY) or 202-457-0046 (Voice/TTY). [http://www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com)

**American Council of the Blind.** National nonprofit membership organization of blind, visually impaired and sighted individuals, strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life, for all blind and visually-impaired people. Advocacy, information, publications and a daily listing of employment opportunities under its ACB “Job Connection.” **Contact:** 800-424-8666 or 202-467-5081. [http://www.acb.org/](http://www.acb.org/)

Autism Treatment Centers of Texas. Nonprofit organization provides assessment, information, life skills training and residential services in Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. Also provides services to individuals who are blind and/or deaf. Residential facilities are single family homes and duplexes, located in neighborhoods; programming, activities, living skills. Associated with the Autism Society of America and National Association of Residential Providers for Adults with Autism. Licensed by TEA, Texas Department of MHMR, Home and Community based Services. Contact: 972-644-2076 (Dallas). 210-590-2107 (San Antonio).  http://www.atcoftexas.org  


Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. Houston-based private nonprofit United Way agency offers employment-related services to a diverse challenged population including job-readiness training, placement assistance, job retention training, placement, coaching, support services, computer literacy training, benefits counseling. Career Counseling services offer educational and vocational guidance. Links to other sites. Contact: 713-754-7000.  http://www.careerandrecovery.org/  

Celebration Company. An entrepreneurial business site developed by JFS Disability Services to provide Jewish adults with disabilities an entry into the workplace. Life skills and wellness components built into the program. Participants create marketable products which are sold by agencies, other vendors and online. A program of Jewish Family Service, a United Way Agency. Fee. Contact: 713-667-4727.  http://www.jfshouston.org/celebrationco/aboutus.php  

The Center. Nonprofit United Way agency offers training, employment and employment support to adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities: work habits, day habilitation services, work-center training, supervised off-site crews and supported employment. Houston, TX. Contact: 713-525-8400.  http://thecenterhouston.org  


Disability.gov. On-line connection to the federal government’s disability-related information, programs and resources on numerous subjects, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, technology and transportation. Includes Federal job listings, links to employment opportunities and to state and local resources. Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Contact: https://www.dol.gov/  

Employer Assistance & Recruiting Network. (EARN). Source for disability employment information including: recruitment, tools and resources, success stories for federal and private employers, employment service providers and job seekers. It is NOT an employment or job placement service. Contact 855-275-3276 (toll-free).  http://askearn.org/
The Gathering Place. A program of the Menninger Clinic. Provides a supportive environment and daytime programs for adults (age 18+) with severe and persistent mental illness who are under the care of a psychiatrist. Offers vocational development, supported employment, social and recreational activities. No fee. **Contact:** 713-729-3799. [http://www.menningerclinic.com](http://www.menningerclinic.com)

Goodwill Industries of Houston. Nonprofit organization, part of Goodwill International, provides multiple services including training, skills development, work opportunities, placement services and mentoring for veterans and people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. Multiple locations throughout Greater Houston. **Contact:** 713-692-6221. [http://www.goodwillhouston.org](http://www.goodwillhouston.org)

Hope Village. Private nonprofit organization, the Foundation for Hope Village provides residential, day, respite and summer programs in Friendswood, TX. Developmental Center includes a structured work program licensed by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Participant employees are paid for their work. **Contact:** 281-482-7926. [http://www.hope-village.com/](http://www.hope-village.com/)

Houston Center for Independent Living. Brazoria County, Houston and Ft. Bend Centers for Independent Living promote the full inclusion, equal opportunity and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life. Services include: advocacy, information & referral, peer support, independent living skills training, links to other resources. Part of Texans for Independent Living. **Contact:** Voice/TTY: (713) 974-4621 [http://www.houstoncil.org](http://www.houstoncil.org)

Jewish Family Service. Nonprofit United Way agency offering assessment and a broad range of counseling, supportive, life-skills, employment, educational and information and referral services. Disability Services Department offers:

- **Alexander Institute for Inclusion:** actively supports inclusion initiatives throughout Houston and Harris County;
- **Celebration Company:** structured employment and life, social and wellness skills.
- **MainStreet Opportunities:** supported employment services.
- **Disability Services On-line Resource Guide.**
- **Project Shalom.** Counseling, activities and socializing for people with long-term mental illness.
- Counseling, social groups, support groups. English, Hebrew and Russian. Fee: Sliding scale. Some insurance. **Contact:** 713-667-9336. [http://www.jfshouston.org](http://www.jfshouston.org)

Job Accommodation Network (JAN). A service of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) of the U. S. Department of Labor. Provides information about job accommodations and the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), as well as links to sites regarding employment, training and accommodation. It is not a placement service. **Contact:** 800-526-7234 (Voice); 877-781-9403 (TTY) [http://askjan.org/index.html](http://askjan.org/index.html)

Lighthouse of Houston. Private, nonprofit United Way agency offering a wide variety of educational programs, community services, and outpatient rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired. **Contact:** 713-527-9561. [http://www.houstonlighthouse.org](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org)

MainStreet Opportunities. Vocational rehabilitation program for individuals, developing and implementing a personalized plan for successful transition into the competitive work force. A program of Jewish Family Service, a United Way Agency. **Contact:** 713-667-9336. [http://www.jfshouston.org/disability_services/](http://www.jfshouston.org/disability_services/)

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. Information and resources for youth with disabilities and their families; assists state and local workforce development systems to better serve youth with disabilities. **Contact:** 877-871-0744; 877-871-0665 (TTY). [http://www.ncwd-youth.info/](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/)

National Organization on Disability (NOD). National nonprofit organization that seeks to expand the participation and contribution of Americans with disabilities in all aspects of life. Provides links to housing, employment, education and other resources. **Contact:** 646-505-1191 ext# 122. [http://www.nod.org/](http://www.nod.org/)

Reach Unlimited. Nonprofit organization serving intellectually challenged adults through education, vocational training, supported employment, and residential services. Clients also volunteer in the community. Northwest Harris County, TX. **Contact:** 281-469-8058. [https://www.reachunlimited.org/](https://www.reachunlimited.org/)

VAST Academy (Vocational Advancement and Social Skills Training). A program of the Houston Community College System designed to provide educational opportunities to individuals with learning, developmental and/or physical disabilities. Courses are offered in the following areas: Academic, Personal/Social Development, Career & Vocational, Enrichment and Basic Computer Training. Office skills training and job readiness. Application, testing, and interview. Fee. **Contact:** 713-718-6832 [http://vast.hccs.edu/](http://vast.hccs.edu/)

Yachad, National Jewish Council for Disabilities. Nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. A department of the Orthodox Union. Offers summer programs, advocacy, education, resources, support and programs. Membership. **Contact:** 561-504-1033 or [https://www.yachad.org/](https://www.yachad.org/)

**INFORMATION, REFERRAL, SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES.**


American Association of People with Disabilities **(AAPD).** National nonprofit cross-disability member organization dedicated to ensuring economic and political empowerment of people with disabilities. Works in coalition with other disability organizations and advocates for the implementation and enforcement of laws for people with disabilities. Advocacy, information & referral, resources. Complaint pages link to various government agencies and other organizations. **Contact:** 800-840-8844 (V/TTY) or 202-457-0046 (Voice/TTY). [http://www.aapd.com](http://www.aapd.com)

American Council of the Blind. National nonprofit membership organization of blind, visually impaired and sighted individuals, strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and quality of life, for all blind and visually-impaired people. Advocacy, information, publications and a daily listing of employment opportunities under its ACB “Job Connection.” **Contact:** 800-424-8666 or 202-467-5081. [http://www.acb.org/](http://www.acb.org/)


The Arc of Greater Houston. Nonprofit membership organization committed to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Advocacy, support groups, programs for individuals with disabilities, resources, research, referral, respite services, camps, social. Affiliated with The Arc of Texas and The Arc of the United States. English & Spanish **Contact:** 713-957-1600. [http://www.aogh.org/](http://www.aogh.org/)
**ASPIE Asperger’s Syndrome.** Asperger’s Syndrome Parent-Professional Information Exchange. Nonprofit membership organization providing information and support groups for adults and children with Asperger’s syndrome. **Contact:** (281) 404-9976 www.aspieinfo.com

**Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA).** Nonprofit membership organization providing information, resources and networking opportunities to help adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder lead better lives and advocate for community resources. **Contact:** http://www.add.org/ . Southern Region Chapter Contact: 281-897-0982. http://adda-sr.org/

**Autism Society.** National nonprofit membership organization works to improve the lives of all affected by autism. Advocacy, information and referral. **Contact:** 301-657-0881 or 800-328-8476. http://www.autism-society.org/


**Autism Source.** Autism Society’s on-line resource. Related services and supports by location or service type. **Contact:** (800-328-8476). http://autismsource.org/

**Autism Treatment Centers of Texas.** Nonprofit organization provides assessment, information, life skills training and residential services in Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. Also provides services to individuals who are blind and/or deaf. Residential facilities are single family homes and duplexes, located in neighborhoods; programming, activities, living skills. Associated with the Autism Society of America and National Association of Residential Providers for Adults with Autism. Licensed by TEA, Texas Department of MHMR, Home and Community based Services. **Contact:** 972-644-2076 (Dallas). 210-590-2107 (San Antonio). http://www.atcoftexas.org

**Brain Injury Association of Texas.** Nonprofit organization for brain injury survivors and family members. Affiliated with Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA). Advocacy, support group, referrals and educational resources. **Contact:** 800-392-0040. http://www.texasbia.org/

**Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE).** A division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, the BJE offers: Kesher (linking children with learning differences to Jewish educational opportunities), information and referral, advocacy for children with special needs in the Jewish community, parent support groups and workshops, monthly Sunday School classes for children who are unable to function in a traditional program. Jewish Network of Special Education Professionals. **Contact:** 713-729-7000. http://www.houstonjewish.org/

**Candlelighters: CCFA.** (Childhood Cancer Family Alliance.) Support group of families with children who have cancer. Resources, newsletters, parent consultants. **Contact:** 713-270-4700 http://www.candle.org/about_us.html

**Center for Hearing and Speech.** Nonprofit United Way agency providing a range of resources and services for children (ages 0-18) with hearing impairment and their families. Assessment, audiology and speech clinics, play therapy, individual and family counseling, parent support groups and auditory-oral school (ages 18 mos. – 6 yrs.). Houston, TX. **Contact:** 713-523-3633. http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/

**Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD).** National nonprofit membership organization provides advocacy, resources, vocational and group support for individuals with AD/HD. English and Spanish. **Contact:** 800-233-4050. http://www.chadd.org
Coalition for Barrier Free Living. Brazoria County, Houston and Ft. Bend Centers for Independent Living promote the full inclusion, equal opportunity and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of community life. Services include: advocacy, information & referral, peer support, independent living skills training, links to other resources. Part of Texans for Independent Living. http://www.houstoncil.org/

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). Nonprofit disability advocacy organization controlled by individuals with disabilities. Offers legal information, market research and training. Seeks to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. Fee-based disability consulting services to businesses, corporations, governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Contact: 512-478-3366. http://www.txdisabilities.org/

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). International professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. Advocacy, special education, support services, resources. Contact: 888-232-7733 (toll-free); 866-915-5000 (TTY). https://www.cec.sped.org/About-Us


DePelchin Children’s Center. Nonprofit United Way agency provides services designed to prevent and resolve social and emotional crises for children and their families. Assessment, parenting skills, residential treatment services, therapy, psychological services. Several locations in the Greater Houston Area. Contact: 713-730-2335 or 888-730-2335 (toll-free). http://www.depelchin.org/

Disability.gov. On-line connection to the federal government’s disability-related information, programs and resources on numerous subjects, including benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, housing, health, technology and transportation. Includes Federal job listings, links to employment opportunities and to state and local resources. Managed by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Contact: https://www.dol.gov/


Easter Seals of Greater Houston. Nonprofit organization works to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities through advocacy, assistance, camps, education, respite care and opportunities.. Links to other helpful sites. Contact: 713-838-9050. http://www.eastersealshouston.org/

Echidnas. Independent nonprofit membership self-help organization for adolescents (ages 13+) with Asperger’s Syndrome, and their parents. Contact: http://www.echidnasgroup.org/
Families Can. Part of the University of Houston’s Learning & Assessment Services Parent Education Project (PEP). Parent-to-parent services for families of children with special needs: information, links, resource guide, support groups, newsletter. Contact: (713) 743-5435 http://www.uh.edu/education/pep/


Center on Technology and Disability. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs; offers a wide range of information and resources about assistive technology. Contact: (202) 884-8068. https://www.ctdinstitute.org/


Guide to Disability Rights Laws. Brief descriptions and information about the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, and others. Prepared by the U. S. Department of Justice. Contact: https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm


Healthfinder.gov A service of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Resources. Links to information about health issues and services. Contact: http://www.healthfinder.gov

Houston Bar Association. Offers several services to the public, including LegalLine, Saturday Legal Advice Clinics, Houston Volunteer Lawyers and Public Information Brochure. Contact: (713) 759-1133 http://www.hba.org/folder-services/services.htm

Houston Center for Independent Living. See Coalition for Barrier Free Living. http://www.houstoncil.org/

Houston Jewish Special Needs. Independent, parent-driven advocacy group promoting social activities, information and networking for Jewish families with children and young adults with special needs. A local forum is available at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houstonjewishspecialneeds/
Website: www.HoustonJewishSpecialNeeds.org. Contact: houstonjewishspecialneeds@yahoo.com

ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization). A national center for information, training, research, and technical assistance in independent living. Its goal is to expand the body of knowledge in independent living and to improve utilization of results of research programs and demonstration projects in this field. It is a program of TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) Memorial Hermann, a nationally recognized medical rehabilitation facility for persons with disabilities. Contact: 713-520-0232. http://www.ilru.org/

I’m Too Young for This! Foundation (I2Y). Independent nonprofit provides support to young adults (under 40) with cancer through online communities and social networks. Contact: http://stupidcancer.org/

Jason’s Connection. Jason’s Connection seeks to connect people to resources, and to each other, with listings, referrals, and recommendations from peers who have found quality caregivers, services and experiences that meet the needs of people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. http://www.jasonsconnection.org/

Jewish Family Service. Nonprofit United Way agency offering assessment and a broad range of counseling, supportive, life-skills, employment, educational and information and referral services. Disability Services Department offers:
- Alexander Institute for Inclusion: actively supports inclusion initiatives throughout Houston and Harris County;
- Celebration Company: structured employment day program.
- MainStreet Opportunities: supported employment services.
- Social Group: weekly social group for high functioning young adults with disabilities.
- Disability Services On-line Resource Guide.
- Project Shalom. Counseling, activities and socializing for people with chronic mental illness.

Jewish Funders Network. A Guide to Funding Disabilities and Special Needs. 12-chapter e-book, commissioned by the JFN’s peer network on disabilities and special needs, has important information for funders, with sections on: employment, synagogue inclusion, recreation, community living, and more. Each chapter is written by an expert in the field specifically for the funding community. https://www.jfunders.org/disability-rights

LawHelp. Non-profit online organization helps low and moderate income people find free legal aid programs in their communities, answers to questions about their legal rights, and forms to help with their legal problems. Also lists services by state. English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese. Contact: http://www.lawhelp.org/ Texas: http://www.texaslawhelp.org

LD Online. Learning Disabilities Online seeks to help children, teens and adults reach their full potential by providing information and advice about learning disabilities and ADHD. Information, referral lists, resources, forums. Sponsor: Washington D.C. PBS station WETA. Contact: http://www.ldonline.org/

Learning Ally. National non-profit organization serving Americans who are blind, have low vision or learning disabilities through recorded materials, including textbooks, fiction, non-fiction, publications. Membership. Contact: 800-221-4792 https://www.learningally.org


Lighthouse of Houston. Private, nonprofit United Way agency offering a wide variety of educational programs, community services, and outpatient rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired. Contact: 713-527-9561. http://www.houstonlighthouse.org
**Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (Houston).** Advocacy, information and referrals for City of Houston residents with disabilities; assists clients in the investigation and resolution of complaints. Deals with emergency services, including free visual fire alarms for members of deaf community. Facilitates the delivery of city services to individuals with disabilities; referrals to free legal services. **Contact: 832-394-0814.**


**MedlinePlus.** A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine – National Institutes of Health. Offers free, online, up-to-date health information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues. **Contact:**


**THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD** - Dedicated to providing or ensuring provision of services and supports to people with mental disabilities and their families. Fee: Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, adjustable fees. **Contact:** 24-hour Help Line: 713-970-7000 or 866-970-4770 (toll-free). 800-735-2988 (Hearing impaired) [http://www.mhmraharris.org/index.asp](http://www.mhmraharris.org/index.asp)

- Adult Mental Health.
- Children and Adolescent Services.
- Crisis and Emergency Services.

**Contact:** 713-970-7070 Help Line 24 hours a day for questions or support.

**Mental Health America of Greater Houston.** Houston nonprofit agency working to promote mental health and to improve the care and treatment of persons living with mental illness through education and advocacy. Advocacy, education, information & referral, resources. Also: **Children’s Mental Health Action Network Resource Guide.** **Contact:** 713-523-8963. [http://www.mhahouston.org/](http://www.mhahouston.org/)

**METROLift.** Accessible shared ride: curb-to-curb transportation for persons with disabilities who cannot access fixed-route bus service. By appointment only. A service of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County. For eligibility requirements, hours, fares, subscriptions and other information, **Contact:** 713-225-0119 or 713-652-8969 (TDD). [http://www.ridemetro.org/Services/Lift.aspx](http://www.ridemetro.org/Services/Lift.aspx)

**The Montrose Center.** Independent United Way nonprofit agency providing individual, couples/family and group psychotherapy and case management services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBT) persons. Fee: sliding scale; accepts private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. **Contact:** 713-529-0037. [http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org](http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org)

24-Hour Crisis Line / Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston 713-529-3211

832.413.6192  Videophone (hearing impaired)

866.327.7477  Voice for Hearing (hearing impaired; toll-free)

**Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).** National voluntary non-profit organization addressing neuromuscular diseases. Provides assessment, clinics, camps, information, research, resources and support. **Contact:** 713-522-8561. [http://www.mda.org/](http://www.mda.org/)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).** Nonprofit membership organization offering advocacy, peer support groups, information, referral and education. **Contact:** [http://www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)  Houston Contact: 713-970-4419. [http://www.namigreaterhouston.org](http://www.namigreaterhouston.org)

**National Center for Learning Disabilities.** National nonprofit organization providing advocacy, information, resources, educational tools, support and multiple links for families and professionals. English & Spanish. **Contact:** [http://www.ncld.org/](http://www.ncld.org/)
National Center on Workforce and Disability/Adult (NCWD). Resource for training, technical assistance, policy analysis and information to improve access for all in the workforce. Part of the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass, Boston. Contact: http://www.onestops.info/

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth. Information and resources for youth with disabilities and their families; assists state and local workforce development systems to better serve youth with disabilities. Contact: 877-871-0744; 877-871-0665 (TTY). http://www.ncwd-youth.info/


National Organization on Disability (NOD). National nonprofit organization that raises disability awareness through programs, publications and its website. Working with business, corporate, government and community leaders, it partners with a range of organizations and governments to remove barriers and change attitudes for people with disabilities. Extensive links to housing, employment, education and other resources. Contact: 646-505-1191 ext#122. http://www.nod.org/

Nurture Family Navigate Life. The website is designed for families and parents of children with disabilities with special health-care needs and is designed to offer support, inspiration, resources, and links to services available. https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en

OASIS @ MAAP. Online Autism and Asperger Syndrome resource for families, individuals, and medical
professionals. Provides articles, educational resources, links to local, national and international support groups, sources of professional help, lists of camps and schools, conference information, recommended reading, and moderated support message boards. **Contact:** 219-662-1311  [http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/](http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/)

**Partners Resource Network.** Operates three regional federally funded Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI) serving Texas parents of children and youth (ages 0-22) with disabilities. Advocacy, information and referral, extensive links to resources, information. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. **Contact Houston:** 713-524-2147 or 877-832-8945 (toll-free)  [http://www.partnerstx.org/](http://www.partnerstx.org/)

**Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.** (See Learning Ally)

**Service Dogs.** Hearing Dogs,* Obedience Training *CGC Test Promotes independence and socialization

Allie Keaton  713-703-6924  [www.myservicedog.com](http://www.myservicedog.com)  allie@myservicedog.com

**Types of Assistance Dogs - Service Dog Express.** Therapy dogs, Service dogs, and Emotional Support dogs


**SpeakUpTexas (Relay Texas).** Telephone interpreting service helps Texans with speech-related disabilities use the telephone. Sponsored by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. **Contact:** 877-325-8789 (PUC)  [https://links.communityos.org/zf/profile/agency/id/30951](https://links.communityos.org/zf/profile/agency/id/30951)

**Texas Children’s Hospital.** Nationally recognized nonprofit comprehensive children’s hospital located in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. Special needs departments include:

- **Autism Center.** Offers a multi-disciplinary approach to evaluation, planning, therapy. **Contact:** 832-822-1900.  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/autism](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/autism)
- **Pediatric Neurology Clinic.** Offers diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for a wide range of neurological disorders. **Contact**  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/neurology](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/neurology)
- **Psychiatry Clinic.** Offers psychiatric evaluations and pharmacological management of neuropsychiatric symptomatology. **Contact:** 832-822-3750  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychiatry)
- **Psychology Center.** Children and teens are evaluated and treated for a wide-range of conditions, from learning disorders and ADHD to behavioral and anxiety disorders. **Contact:** 832-822-3700.  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychology/outpatient-services](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/psychology/outpatient-services)
- **Speech, Language and Learning Clinic.** Offering evaluation, management and consultation for infants, children, adolescents and adults with oral and/or written language difficulties: communication, learning, feeding and/or swallowing problems related to a broad range of physical and neurological conditions. Collaborative of various Texas Children’s Hospital departments and clinics; affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. Family referrals accepted. Fees. **Contact:** 832-822-3280.  [https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning](https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/speech-language-and-learning)

**Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).** Texas state agency responsible for providing and overseeing services for and to the aged and to children and adults with disabilities. Information about direct and supportive services. An agency of the Texas Health & Human Services System. English and Spanish.  [https://hhs.texas.gov/](https://hhs.texas.gov/)

**Texas Education Agency (TEA).** Texas state agency whose mission is to provide leadership, guidance, and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students. Resource for and information about special education resources and requirements. English and Spanish. **Contact:** 512-463-9734.  [http://www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov)
Texas Information and Referral Network. 2-1-1. Texas Health and Human Services Commission program responsible for the statewide information and referral network. A portal to finding services in Texas. Contact: 2-1-1. http://www.211texas.org


VOR (Voice of the Retarded). Independent non-profit membership organization that advocates for residential choice, rights and adequate funding, including a full range of quality residences and services for the retarded, medically fragile and behaviorally challenged: homes, community residences, congregate and large facilities. Contact: 877-399-4867 http://www.vor.net/

Wrightslaw. Independent on-line resource seeking to provide parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys with accurate, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy. Seminars, extensive links, Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities, free e-newsletter. Contact: http://www.wrightslaw.com/

JEWISH RESOURCES.
The following list, by no means exhaustive, is an attempt to identify resources that, in a Jewish framework, serve children and adults with disabilities and their families. Many cities with substantial Jewish populations provide services. For information about Jewish disability services in a particular locale, begin with a search of that city’s Jewish Family Service or Federation website. It should be noted that many synagogues and religious schools provide services to and make accommodations for people with disabilities. Agencies and services in the Greater Houston area are designated by an asterisk (*).

*Bureau of Jewish Education. A division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, the BJE offers: Kesher (linking children with learning differences to Jewish educational opportunities), information and referral,
advocacy for children with special needs in the Jewish community, parent support groups and workshops, monthly Sunday School classes for children who learn differently, Jewish Network of Special Education Professionals. Part-time Special Education Consultant. **Contact:** 713-729-7000.  
http://www.houstonjewish.org

**Camps.** See the **Camps** section of this Guide.

**Chabad Outreach.** Nonprofit organization offering educational, social, religious and respite services to people with disabilities and their families. *Friendship Circle.* Trained volunteers meet with children and adults with disabilities, involving them in a full range of Jewish and social experiences, providing friendship, socialization and respite care.

*Yad Chaverim.* Provides religious programming and social services to the Jewish residents of the Richmond and Brenham State Supported Living Centers and Jewish residents of Assisted Living centers for adults with special needs.

**All programs contact:** 713-774-0300.  
http://www.chabadoutreach.org

**Community Homes for Adults, Inc. (CHAI).** Non-sectarian, nonprofit corporation under Jewish auspices that provides programs and services so adults with cognitive disabilities in the Dallas area may live full, rich lives in a safe environment and meaningfully participate in the community. Operates three community-integrated kosher group homes. Wolens Learning Center offers socializing, life skills training and supported employment. Licensed by Texas Dept. of Aging & Disability Services. **Contact:** 214-373-8600.  
https://chaidallas.org/

**Congregation Beth Yeshurun.** Conservative Congregation has an active Inclusion Committee. Offers live streaming of services, podcasts of sermons, Inclusion Shabbat, Gathering Place and *Voices in Prayer*, a monthly Shabbat service at Richmond State Supported Living Center. **Contact:** 713-666-1881.  
http://www.bethyeshurun.org/

**Congregation Beth Israel.** Reform Houston congregation hosts a “Gathering Place” program providing respite for caregivers. **Contact:** 713-771-6221.  
http://www.beth-israel.org

**Congregation Emanu El.** Reform Congregation. Has an active Inclusion Committee.

*Schools:* Both the *Becker Early Childhood Center* and the *Helfman Religious School* welcome and accommodate children who learn differently. Special classes for pre- B’nai Mitzvah students.

*Large Print Prayer Books* are available at the Barish Sanctuary and the Proler Chapel.

*Gathering Place* program provides respite for caregivers.

*Services for the hearing impaired include:*

*Induction Loop System* transmits audio signals directly to one’s T-coil-equipped hearing aid. **CART** (Communication Access Realtime Translation) captioning on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. (Proler Chapel).

**ASL** (American Sign Language) translation on the second Friday of each month (Barish Sanctuary.)

**Contact:** 713-529-5771.  
http://www.emanuelhouston.org/

**Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (ERJCC).** United Way agency offers a wide range of social, physical, artistic and learning activities and opportunities for people of all ages. JCC membership required for some programs.

*Adapted Aquatics.* Designed for individuals with special needs who require individualized swim instruction and/or adaptive equipment to be successful in the water. Youth, teens, adults.

Gymnastics Superstars. Introduction to physical play for children (3+), using state-of-the-art- gymnastics facility and equipment.
**Nite Owls.** Social group for adults with disabilities; meets weekly for activities, holiday celebrations, field trips, etc. Families also meet for sharing and support.

**STARS.** Pre-school intervention program for children (ages 2-5) with language, social, pragmatic and sensory motor challenges. Individual therapeutic plans. Fees. **Contact:** 713-551-7200

**Top Soccer.** Community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities (ages 4 – 19).

All Programs (unless otherwise noted) **Contact:** 713-729-3200. [http://www.erjcchouston.org/](http://www.erjcchouston.org/)

**Foundation for Jewish Camping.** Provides information about 130+ nonprofit Jewish overnight camps as well as financial and programming resources to camps, campers and their families across North America. “Find a Jewish Camp” search tool can be customized for Special Needs programs. Offers a Directory of Camp Scholarships. **Contact:** 888-888-4819. [http://www.jewishcamp.org/](http://www.jewishcamp.org/)

**Friendship Circle.** A project of Chabad Outreach. Introduces volunteers to people with special needs, involving them in a range of Jewish and social experiences. No fee.

- **Youth Division.** Trained teen volunteers visit children with special needs every week, involving them in a full range of Jewish and social experiences, providing friendship, socialization and respite care.
- **Adult Division.** Extends a helping hand to adults with special needs, involving them in a full range of social and Judaic experiences. Provides religious programming and social services to the Jewish residents of the Richmond and Brenham Supported Living Centers and Jewish residents of Assisted Living centers for adults with special needs.
- **Golden Circle.** Matches local volunteers with local seniors for a weekly visit, bringing joy and a sense of caring to many. Organizes holiday celebrations at several senior facilities in Greater Houston. **Contact:** 713-774-0300. [http://www.friendshiphouston.com/](http://www.friendshiphouston.com/)

**Goldberg B’nai B’rith Towers.** Subsidized housing for the elderly (62+) and adults (18+) with disabilities. Houston, Texas. Funded by U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. **Contact:** 713-771-2417. 800-735-2989 (toll-free) [http://www.gbbt.org/](http://www.gbbt.org/)

**Israel 4 All.** Specializes in customized accessible travel in Israel for people with physical disabilities and special needs. **Contact:** [http://www.israel4all.com](http://www.israel4all.com)

**JBI International (formerly Jewish Braille Institute).** Offers magazine, large print, Braille and audio books, at no charge, in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Hungarian and Polish for the visually impaired. Resource list of links to sites accessible to the visually impaired. A nonprofit affiliated library of the Library of Congress. **Contact:** 212-889-2525. [http://www.jbilibrary.org/index.php?sub=0](http://www.jbilibrary.org/index.php?sub=0)

**Jewish Children’s Regional Service.** Social work agency and charitable fund serving Jewish children and youth in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. Offers scholarships based on financial need for camp, special needs, summer programs and college. **Special Friends Club** recognizes Jewish youth with disabilities for special achievements and life cycle events. **Contact:** 800-729-5277 (Toll free); Houston office: 832-767-9097. [http://www.jcrs.org/](http://www.jcrs.org/)

**The Jewish Deaf Resource Center (JDRC).** Advocacy and initiatives to include Jewish Deaf into the full range of activities in the Jewish community. **Contact:** 917-705-8941 (Voice) or 614-476-9221 (TTY/fax/ videophone). [http://www.jdrc.org/index.html](http://www.jdrc.org/index.html)

**Jewish Family Service.** Nonprofit United Way agency offering assessment and a broad range of counseling, supportive, life-skills, employment and educational services. Disability Services Department offers:

- **Alexander Institute for Inclusion:** actively supports inclusion initiatives throughout Houston and Harris County;
• Celebration Company: structured employment day program;
• MainStreet Opportunities: supported employment services;
• On-line Resource Guide.

*Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.* Sponsors educational programs and initiatives through its Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE)

• Jewish Network of Special Education Professionals (JNSE). Houston Jewish Special Educators meet, share and disseminate information concerning the implementation of modifications in the school settings.
• Kesher. Advocates for children with special needs, offers family support, monthly meetings, referrals, resources. Also sponsors Sunday School classes for children who learn differently.

Jewish Funders Network. *A Guide to Funding Disabilities and Special Needs.* 12-chapter e-book, commissioned by the JFN’s peer network on disabilities and special needs, has important information for funders, with sections on: employment, synagogue inclusion, recreation, community living, and more. Each chapter is written by an expert in the field specifically for the funding community. [https://www.jfunders.org/guide-funding-disabilities-and-special-needs](https://www.jfunders.org/guide-funding-disabilities-and-special-needs)

Parents for Torah for All Children (P’TACH). Advocacy and model programs for including special needs students in Yeshivas and Jewish Day Schools. Most in the New York area; chapters in some cities. Contact: 718-854-8600. [http://www.ptach.org](http://www.ptach.org)


Residential Resources. See Residential Resources section of this Guide.

*Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services.* A Houston geriatric service organization providing social, medical, clinical, transportation, hearing devices and other services relative to the resident geriatric (65+) population at Seven Acres and The Medallion. Fees. Accepts private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, V.A. Contact: 713-778-5700. [http://www.sevenacres.org/](http://www.sevenacres.org/)

Union for Reform Judaism. Umbrella organization for Reform Congregations. Initiatives for Inclusion of people with disabilities, resources. Contact: 212.650.4000. [https://urj.org/](https://urj.org/)

• URJ Camps & Israel Experiences for children with special needs. Contact: 212.650.4070

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Umbrella organization for Conservative Congregations. *Information about programs, services, and access that welcomes people with disabilities.* Contact: [https://uscj.org/](https://uscj.org/)

Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities. Nonprofit membership organization dedicated to addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. A department of the Orthodox Union. Offers advocacy, education, resources, support and programs. Contact: (212)-613-8229 [www.njcd.org](http://www.njcd.org)
LEGAL RESOURCES.

Advocacy, Inc. (See Disability Rights Texas).

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD). Nonprofit disability advocacy organization controlled by individuals with disabilities. Offers legal information, market research and training. Seeks to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, inclusion and integration into all aspects of society. Fee-based disability consulting services to businesses, corporations, governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Contact: 512-478-3366. http://www.txdisabilities.org/


Houston Bar Association. Offers several services to the public, including LegalLine, Saturday Legal Advice Clinics, Houston Volunteer Lawyers and Public Information Brochure. Contact: (713) 759-1133. http://www.hba.org/folder-services/services.htm

48Houston Lawyer Referral Service (HLRS). Nonprofit organization certified by the State Bar of Texas and sponsored by several Bar Associations. Matches a client with an attorney specializing in a specific area. No charge for initial referral; attorney fees assessed for consultations and cases. Harris, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, and Montgomery Counties. English and Spanish. Contact: 713-237-9429 or 800-289-4577 (toll-free). http://www.hlrs.org.

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program. Affiliated with the Houston Bar Association, HVLP helps low-income citizens that other programs often cannot serve, such as those who may not meet the financial criteria of other legal assistance programs or non-US citizens. Contact: (713) 228-0735. http://www.makejusticehappen.org/

LawHelp. Non-profit online organization helps low and moderate income people find free legal aid programs in their communities, answers to questions about their legal rights, and forms to help with their legal problems. Also lists services by state. English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese. Contact: http://www.lawhelp.org/ Texas: http://www.texaslawhelp.org

Lone Star Legal Aid (LSLA). Texas nonprofit organization providing legal services to low-income clients for cases on civil rights, housing, employment, health, consumer rights, family rights, and federal entitlement. No fee. Funded by the Legal Services Corporation, Texas Equal Justice Foundation and United Way. Contact: 713-652-0077 or 800-733-8394 (toll-free). http://www.lonestarlegal.org

Saturday Legal Advice Clinics. Sponsored by the Houston Bar Association and Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, clinics are held each month at various community centers. Dates and locations are posted on-line. Free. Contact: 713-759-1133. http://www.hba.org/folder-services/services.htm

Wrightslaw. Independent on-line resource seeking to provide parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys with accurate, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy. Links, Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities, free e-newsletter. Contact: http://www.wrightsaw.com/

PARENTING.

Programs and opportunities listed here are designed for parents to enhance and strengthen coping, communication and discipline skills, helping families to live together safely and supportively.

Center for Hearing and Speech. Nonprofit United Way agency providing a range of resources and services for children (ages 0-18) with hearing impairment and their families. Assessment, audiology & speech clinics, play therapy, individual and family counseling, parent support groups and auditory-oral school (ages 18 mos. – 7 yrs.). Houston, TX. Contact: 713-523-3633. http://www.centerhearingandspeech.org/

ChildBuilders. Independent nonprofit organization. Programs and publications teach parents and children important skills to help them lead healthier lives. Parents learn how to raise emotionally healthy children. Contact: 713-481-6555 http://www.childbuilders.org/

DePelchin Children’s Center. Nonprofit United Way agency provides services designed to prevent and resolve social and emotional crises for children and their families. Assessment, parenting skills, residential treatment services, therapy, psychological services. Several locations in the Greater Houston Area. Contact: 713-730-2335 or 888-730-2335 (toll-free). http://www.depelchin.org/

ESCAPE Family Resource Center. Houston independent nonprofit organization provides families with cutting-edge parenting techniques, including effective alternatives to corporal punishment. Classes on a variety of parenting subjects are held in various locations and are available in English, Spanish and Chinese. On-line resources. Fee. Contact: 713-942-9500. http://escapefrc.org/


Texas Project First. Families, Information, Support and training. A website created by parents for parents of students of students receiving special education services. If seeking information and resources to students with disabilities and their family, then review the Texas Project First website www.texasprojectfirst.org

RECREATION, SOCIAL, SPORTS, TRAVEL & OTHER ACTIVITIES
Opportunities for greater participation in recreational, social, sports and travel activities by people with disabilities are enhanced by agencies and organizations which offer programs and adaptive facilities.

Adaptive Athletics. Center for Students with disabilities at the University of Houston 713-743-9065 http://www.uh.edu/class/hhp/hhp_adaptive_athletics/

The Arc of Greater Houston . Non-profit organization committed to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Organizes and offers:
• Saturday Fun Days (ages vary by location), Adventure Club (15+), and a Monthly Dance (15+).
• Adult Week-end Respite (21+)
• Day Camps. Theme-based, age appropriate activities one-week sessions for individuals (ages 4-14).
• Sports and Life Skills Camp. One-week sessions of team sports, swimming, bowling and arts & crafts for individuals (ages 15-25).
• Residential Inclusion Camp for individuals (ages 10-30) with and without developmental disabilities.
• Overnight Summer Vacations. (age 18+)

Access-Ables Travel Source. Information for travelers with disabilities and mature travelers. Extensive database of accessible accommodations, attractions, cruises, resources, guides, equipment rental and travel resources.

Best Buddies. International non-profit organization seeking to enhance the lives of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Middle and High School, College and E-buddies. Contact: Texas Chapter: 713-525-8478. http://www.bestbuddies.org/best-buddies

Chabad Outreach. Non-profit organization, part of Chabad Lubavitch, offers educational, social, religious and respite services to people with disabilities and their families.
Friendship Circle.
• Youth Division. Trained teen volunteers meet with special needs children involving them in a full range of Jewish and social experiences, providing friendship, socialization and respite care.
• Adult Division. Extends a helping hand to adults with special needs, involving them in a full range of social and Judaic experiences. Provides religious programming and social services to the Jewish residents of the Richmond and Brenham State Schools and Jewish residents of Assisted Living centers for adults with special needs.

City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department/Metropolitan Multi-Service Center.
Adaptive Recreation Section offers a variety of recreational, sporting and quality of life programming for people with disabilities: structured classes, fitness room, full court gym, indoor heated pool for use by people with disabilities, beep baseball field, tennis court, quarter-mile outdoor trail, and an urban garden. Offers several
sports and recreation programs for children and adults with physical disabilities through the Paralympic Sports Club Houston. Vale-Asche Foundation Playground Without Limits provides children of various abilities a place where they can be together and play. Contact: 832-395-7333. http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/adaptivesports.html

Creating Arts-Inspired, Inclusive Communities  866-489-8412 www.vsatx.org

Dionysus Theatre. Independent non-profit organization operates out of the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center Joe Frank Theatre, Houston, TX. Brings theater experience, theater arts classes and performances to teens and young adults with and without disabilities, seeking to "change lives...one act at a time." Contact: 713-728-0041. https://www.dionysustheatre.net/

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (Houston). Non-profit United Way agency offers a wide range of social, physical, artistic and learning activities and opportunities for people of all ages. JCC membership required for some programs.
  • Adapted Aquatics. Designed for individuals with special needs who require individualized swim instruction and/or adaptive equipment to be successful in the water. Youth, teens, adults.
  • Gymnastics Superstars. Introduction to physical play for children (3+), using state-of-the-art gymnastics facility and equipment.
  • Nite Owls. Social group for adults with disabilities; meets weekly for activities, holiday celebrations, field trips, etc. Families also meet for sharing and support.
  • STARS. Pre-school intervention program for children (ages 2-5) with language, social, pragmatic and sensory motor challenges. Individual therapeutic plans. Fees. Contact: 713-551-7200
  • Top Soccer. Community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities (ages 4 – 19). Contact: All Programs (unless otherwise noted) 713-729-3200. http://www.erjcchouston.org/

Friendship Circle. A project of Chabad Outreach. Offers educational, social, religious and respite services to people with disabilities and their families.
  • Youth Division. Trained teen volunteers meet with special needs children involving them in a full range of Jewish and social experiences, providing friendship, socialization and respite care.
  • Adult Division. Extends a helping hand to adults with special needs, involving them in a full range of social and Judaic experiences. Provides religious programming and social services to the Jewish residents of the Richmond and Brenham Supported Living Centers and Jewish residents of Assisted Living centers for adults with special needs.
  • Golden Circle. Matches volunteers with seniors for a weekly visit, bringing joy and a sense of caring to many. Organizes holiday celebrations at several senior facilities in Greater Houston. Contact: 832-857-0770  http://www.chabadoutreach.org


The Gathering Place. Independent non-profit organization provides a safe place for adults (18+) with mental illness to find the support they need through support groups, job skills building, employment assistance, and recreational activities. Membership at The Gathering Place is free, voluntary, and unlimited. Contact: 713-729-3799. https://www.menningerclinic.com/patients/the-gathering-place
Greater Houston Athletic Association for the Physically Disabled (GHAAPD). Non-profit organization working to provide people with physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in recreational and competitive sports. Participants must be independently mobile. Links to other sports organizations.  Contact: 713-521-3737. [https://www.nchpad.org/](https://www.nchpad.org/)

Hope Village. Private nonprofit organization providing residential, day, respite and summer programs in Friendswood, TX. Summer day program designed for school-aged children (12+). Daily activities include crafts, swimming, field trips, and other activities. Enrollment limited. Contact: 281-482-7926. [http://www.hope-village.com](http://www.hope-village.com)

Israel 4 All. Specializes in customized accessible travel in Israel for people with physical disabilities and special needs. Contact: [http://www.israel4all.com](http://www.israel4all.com) e-mail: info@israel4all.com


Jewish Family Service. Nonprofit United Way social service agency offering a broad range of counseling, educational and supportive services.  
* Project Shalom offers socializing, activities, counseling and medication management for people with chronic mental illness.
* Social Group - A bi-weekly group for high functioning young Jewish adults with disabilities. The program provides opportunities for people to connect in a safe and supportive environment and offers emotional support and encouragement to the participants and their families. Contact: 713-667-9336. [http://www.jfshouston.org](http://www.jfshouston.org)

National Center on Accessibility. Training, technical assistance and research on access to parks, recreation, and tourism. Contact: (812) 856-4422. [http://www.ncaonline.org/](http://www.ncaonline.org/)

National Center on Physical Activity and Disability (NCPAD). Information and resources concerned with physical activity and disability. Search by location to find programs, activities available in specific areas. Contact: 800-900-8086 (toll-free voice and TTY). [http://www.nchpad.org/](http://www.nchpad.org/)
Houston Programs: [http://www.nchpad.org/15/Programs/USA/Texas/Houston](http://www.nchpad.org/15/Programs/USA/Texas/Houston)

Pasadena Parks and Recreation. The Verne Cox Multipurpose Recreation Center is a facility specifically dedicated to recreational activities, programs, and events for youth and adults with disabilities. Programs include: wheelchair sports, Special Olympics, after-school, support groups, fitness, aquatics and summer day programs. Fees. Pasadena TX. Contact: 281-487-1755. [http://www.ci.pasadena.tx.us/default.aspx?name=prk.fac_v_cox](http://www.ci.pasadena.tx.us/default.aspx?name=prk.fac_v_cox)


The Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality (SATH). Educational non-profit membership organization whose mission is to raise awareness of the needs of travelers with disabilities, remove physical and attitudinal barriers to free access and expand travel opportunities in the United States and abroad. Information, advocacy, travel resources and links. Contact: 212-447-7284. http://www.sath.org


Special Olympics of Texas. Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people (ages 8 and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Texas affiliate of international nonprofit organization. Contact: 713-290-0049. www.sotx.org. Greater Houston: http://www.sotx.org/about/areas/area04/

Star Skaters. Skating for Therapy and Recreation. 713-446-6902 www.starskaters.org


Theater Under The Stars (TUTS)/The River. - The River, a program of TUTS Education, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide an accessible, affordable, fine arts education for special children, ages 2-19, who have disabilities, chronic illnesses, or are economically disadvantaged. Contact: 713.520.1220 http://www.theriver.org/

VSA Texas The state organization on art and disability 512-454-9912 or 866-489-8412 eric@nod.org http://www.vsatx.org/

West University Little League Challenger Division. Baseball program for boys and girls (ages 5-18, or until completion of high school) with disabilities. Open to children throughout the greater Houston area. Other Challenger Division Houston locations may be accessed through the website. Contact: http://www.westull.org/page/show/305890-challenger

Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities. A department of the Orthodox Union (OU), dedicated to addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. Offers summer programs, advocacy, education, resources, support and programs. TAGLIT: Birthright Israel and tours to Israel. Membership. Contact: 561-504-1033 or houstonyachad@ou.org
RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES.

The process of locating, assessing and selecting a residential facility for a loved one is very difficult. This section includes resources as well as residential facilities.


Avondale House. Houston, Texas non-profit United Way agency providing year-round education services to children (ages 3-22), a day habilitation program for young adults and residential services for children and young adults (ages 4-40) with autism. The school is accredited by the Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools. Residential facilities are licensed by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Contact: 713-993-9544. http://www.avondalehouse.org/


Brenham State Supported Living Center. Barrier-free residential facility for people who have mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities. Also provides respite and emergency services. Serves 10 counties in Southeast Texas. Life skills, vocational training and employment opportunities. Contact: 979-836-4511. https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/intellectual-or-developmental-disabilities-idd-long-term-care/state-supported-living-centers-sslcs


The Center. Houston-based non-profit United Way agency offering a range of services to and for persons with intellectual and developmental disorders. Two residential facilities: Cullen Residence Hall and Willow River Farms. [See details under specific listings.] Also offers Home & Community Based Services (HCS), Supported Living Services and Respite Care. Contact: 713-525-8400. http://www.TheCenterHouston.org


Community Homes for Adults, Inc. (CHAI). Non-sectarian, non-profit corporation under Jewish auspices that operates several residential group homes and provides programs and services for adults with cognitive
disabilities. Applicants must be a resident of Dallas or of North Texas. Wolens Learning Center offers socializing, life skills training and supported employment. Licensed by Texas Dept. of Aging & Disability Services. **Contact:** 214-373-8600.  
[http://www.chaidallas.org/index.html](http://www.chaidallas.org/index.html)

**Cullen Residence Hall.** A residential service of The Center offering supported living, respite care, social events and life-skills to adults with developmental disorders. Houston, Texas. Licensed by the Texas Department of Human Services. **Contact:** 713-525-8318. [http://www.TheCenterHouston.org](http://www.TheCenterHouston.org)

**Devereux Texas.** Part of a nationwide non-profit network of programs treating individuals of all ages who have a wide range of emotional, behavioral, developmental, chemical dependency and psychiatric disorders. Services including acute hospitalization, partial hospitalization, residential, outpatient & children’s’ services, are offered on two campuses:  
- **League City.** Hospitalization, residential and outpatient services for children, adolescents and adults. **Contact:** 281-335-1000 or 800-373-0011 (toll-free).  
- **Victoria.** Hospitalization, residential and outpatient services for children, adolescents and adults. **Contact:** 361-575-8271 or 800-383-5000 [http://www.devereuxtx.org/](http://www.devereuxtx.org/)

**Hope Village.** Private non-profit organization providing residential, day, respite and summer programs (ages: 12 and up) in Friendswood, TX. Full-time residential services for individuals (ages 6 – adult) with developmental and intellectual disorders. **Contact:** 281-482-7926. [http://www.hope-village.com](http://www.hope-village.com)

**The Horizons School.** Birmingham. AL residential program offering a non-degree post-secondary transition program designed to facilitate personal, social and career independence for students with mild learning disabilities and other mild challenges. **Contact:** 800-822-6242 (toll-free). [http://horizonsschool.org/about_horizons/welcome.html](http://horizonsschool.org/about_horizons/welcome.html)

**Houston Center for Independent Living.** Advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills training, and peer counseling. Part of the Texas State Independent Living Council. **Contact:** 713-974-4621 (Voice/TTY), [http://www.houstoncil.org/](http://www.houstoncil.org/)

**The Lighthouse of Houston.** Private, non-profit United Way agency serving the blind, visually impaired and others with disabilities through education, training, supportive services, summer day camp program, its Center for Education and Adaptive Technology and two barrier-free residential facilities for adults. **Contact:** 281-530-1236 (Lighthouse Living Center I) or 713-988-4236 (Lighthouse Living Center II). [http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/residential-services/](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/residential-services/)

**Marbridge.** Private non-profit 170 acre facility in Manchaca, TX, offers 3 residential communities for adults (18+) who have mild to moderate intellectual disabilities or other cognitive challenges. Individualized programs, vocational and life-skils training, employment, socializing. Also offers summer camp for transitioning young adults (ages 16-30). Licensed by Department of Aging and Disability Services (DAD). **Contact:** 512-282-1144. [http://www.marbridge.org/index.html](http://www.marbridge.org/index.html)

**Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).** Provides information and referrals to individuals with disabilities, and assists clients in the investigation and resolution of complaints; deals with emergency services. Offers 3 programs: accessibility, transportation, and housing. Facilitates the delivery of city services to individuals with disabilities. Will refer to free legal services. **Contact** 832.394.0814. [http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/](http://www.houstontx.gov/disabilities/)
Melvin J. & Claire Levine Jewish Residential Family Services. Palm Beach, FL nonprofit organization. Residential program provides a continuum of services for those who may be developmentally disabled, significantly learning disabled, and/or chronically mentally ill. Contact: 561-684-1991.  

The Mental Health Co-op. A residential program for adults with mental illness, including diseases of the brain which can be successfully managed with medication. Provides skilled training to improve social skills that assist residents in their adjustment to community living. Different levels of treatment. Fee: private pay only. Contact: 713-524-8705 or info@mentalhealthco-op.com.  

Mission Road Development Center. Christian non-profit agency serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Children's residential services (3-17), Adult group home, supported and extended employment, adult day activities. Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio and United Way. Texas. Licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulative Services. Contact: 210-924-9265.  

New Horizons. Private non-profit organization offering residential treatment for boys and girls (ages 5-17) with emotional and behavioral problems. Emergency shelter and other programs. Licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Contact: 325-437-1852.  

Reach Unlimited. Non-profit organization serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Provides individualized supportive services to clients. Also offers education services, vocational training, supported employment, and residential services. Clients also volunteer in the community. Northwest Harris County, TX. Contact: 281-469-8058.  

Reaching Maximum Independence (RMI). Independent non-profit organization providing residential and vocational alternatives in San Antonio for persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Group homes, supported apartment living and foster care services. Certified and licensed by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Contact: 210-656-6674.  

Richmond State Supported Living Center. Barrier-free, 241-acre, residential facility for people who are medically fragile and/or have a dual diagnosis of mental retardation and mental illness. Individualized programs, variety of residential modalities. Life skills, vocational training, and employment opportunities, therapeutic horseback riding, natatorium, chapel. Also provides respite and emergency services. Serves 13 counties in Southeast Texas. Contact: 281-232-2075.  

Sean Ashley House. Houston non-profit organization providing a range of residential services to and for children and adults with disabilities. Among these are case management, residential support, supervised living and supported home living services. Contact: 713-667-6460.  

Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services. A Houston geriatric service organization providing social, medical, clinical, transportation, hearing devices and other services relative to the resident geriatric (65+), dementia and severe behavioral population at Seven Acres and The Medallion. Fees. Accepts private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, V.A. Contact: 713-778-5700.  

Village Learning and Achievement Center. Independent nonprofit organization offers residential and short-term respite services for adults with disabilities. Offers two options for residential services: Village at Stoney Glen provides independent living opportunities for adults with disabilities; Village Home & Community Services facilitates group home living in apartments and private homes throughout the local area. Appropriate residential assistance and supports are available to HCS clients. Village Learning & Achievement Center is certified by the
TDMHMR Waiver Survey and Certification Office as an HCS program provider. Also offers respite care. **Contact:** 281-358-6172 [http://www.villagelac.org/programs/residential/](http://www.villagelac.org/programs/residential/)

**Virtual CIL.** National listing of Centers of Independent Living (CIL), with contact information. **Contact:** [http://www.virtualcil.net](http://www.virtualcil.net)

**VitaLiving.** Private non-profit agency providing long-term comprehensive care and support services for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ICF/IDD (Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Intellectual Developmental Disorders). CLASS (Community Living and Support Services) provides case management services. HCS (Home and Community-based Services) serves clients in their family homes or in their own residences. TIC TAC (Training in the Community Through the Activity Center) addresses the special needs of adults who have intellectual disabilities and severe behavioral challenges and have been unable to successfully participate in other day programs. **Contact:** 713-271-5795. [http://www.vitaliving.org/](http://www.vitaliving.org/)

**Volunteers of America – Texas.** Offers Home & Community-based Services to individuals who are deaf, blind or with multiple disabilities. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. **Contact:** 713-460-0781. [http://www.voatx.org/](http://www.voatx.org/)

**Willow River Farms.** Rural, family-style residential facility for adults with developmental disabilities. Offers vocational training, meaningful employment opportunities and day programs. Located in San Felipe, Texas. Operated by The Center, a nonprofit, United Way agency. Licensed by the Texas Department of Human Services. **Contact:** 713-525-8318. [http://thecenterhouston.org/](http://thecenterhouston.org/)

**RESPITE SERVICES.**

*Caregiving is a demanding and difficult job; the work is never done. Caring for a loved one with special needs, child or adult, can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Recognizing this, some agencies offer support groups and respite programs for caregivers.*

**The Arc of Greater Houston.** Provides extensive services for individuals with disabilities, including advocacy, information, referral, support groups, programs, resources, research, and respite services for caregivers.

- **Adult Respite.** Twice monthly out-of-home, overnight, weekend program for individuals, (ages 21+) with intellectual or pervasive developmental disorder.
- Sporting and musical events, visits to restaurants, theme parks, shopping, movies, educational tours
- **Saturday Fun Day.** Out-of-home program for individuals (ages 4-25) with a diagnosis of intellectual or developmental disorders.

**Contact:** 713-957-1600. [https://www.aogh.org/](https://www.aogh.org/)

**C.A.M.P.** (Children’s Association for Maximum Potential). Offers Respite Club for families, invitations to events and access to In-Home Provider Referral. Club membership fee; additional fees for events.

- **Respite Weekends** at Camp C.A.M.P. in Kerrville, TX.
- **Parents Night Out.** Childcare service and enrichment activity program for children (ages 6 mos.–13 yrs.) with developmental disabilities and their siblings. No charge.
- **Teens Night Out.** Supervised social program for teens and young adults (ages 14+) with developmental disabilities. All programs: **Contact:** 210-671-5411. [http://www.campcamp.org/](http://www.campcamp.org/)

**The Center.** Nonprofit United Way agency offering day and overnight respite services, supported living, social events, life-skills for adults with intellectual and other developmental disorders. Houston, Texas. Licensed by the Texas Department of Human Services. **Contact:** 713-525-8318. [http://www.TheCenterHouston.org](http://www.TheCenterHouston.org)
**Easter Seals of Greater Houston.** Nonprofit United Way agency works to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities through advocacy, assistance, camps, education, respite care and opportunities. Respite programs include In-home Care, Family Day Out, Parents Night Out and Respitality Week-ends. Contact: 713-838-9050. [http://www.eastersealshouston.org/General/our-services.html](http://www.eastersealshouston.org/General/our-services.html)

**Epilepsy Foundation of Texas.** Nonprofit organization sponsors several week-end retreats for teens and adults with epilepsy and their families.

- **Wacky Winter Weekend.** For youth (ages 6 – 14) with epilepsy and their siblings. Designed for Spike 'n' Wave® campers to reunite with friends, to give first time campers a glimpse of summer camp and siblings the opportunity to experience camp.
- **Almost Paradise Weekend.** Provides families the opportunity to get away from everyday stresses and meet other families who share similar experiences.
- **Adventure Get-A-Way & Great Escape Adult Retreat Weekends.** Offers adults the opportunity to spend a weekend away from daily life and meet others who share similar experiences.

Contact: 713-789-6295. 888-548-9716 (Toll free) [http://www.eftx.org/](http://www.eftx.org/)

**Friendship Circle.** Introduces trained teenage volunteers to children (to age 15) with special needs, offering friendship, sharing activities, involving them in a range of Jewish and social experiences and providing caregiver respite. Every week, pairs of teenage volunteers visit participating children in their homes. No fee. Sponsor: Chabad Outreach of Houston. Contact: 713-774-0300. [http://www.friendshiphouston.com/](http://www.friendshiphouston.com/)

**Harris County Area Agency on Aging.** Provides lists of services for caregivers through City of Houston Health and Human Services Department. Contact: 832-393-4301. [http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Aging/caregiver-main.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Aging/caregiver-main.html)

**Hope Village.** Private nonprofit organization providing residential, day, respite and summer programs in Friendswood, TX. Summer day program designed for school-aged children (12+). Daily activities include crafts, swimming, field trips, and other activities. Respite care offered through the Work Activity Center. Enrollment limited. Contact: 281-482-7926. [http://www.hope-village.com](http://www.hope-village.com)

**Interfaith CarePartners.** Non-profit, nonsectarian organization works through congregations to offer a Care Team model of in-home and group support for families with special needs. Caregiver support groups, Kids Pals Care Team, Second Family Care Team, and Gathering Places.


**THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD** Dedicated to providing or ensuring provision of services and supports to people with mental disabilities and their families. Short term temporary or intermittent direct care of a child or adult, either in-home or out-of-home. Contact: 713-970-7070. [http://www.mhmraharris.org/IDD/iddservices.htm](http://www.mhmraharris.org/IDD/iddservices.htm)

**Take Time Texas.** List and description of Texas respite services generated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). Contact: 512-438-5555 [https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/taketime texas/](https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/taketime texas/)
Village Learning & Achievement Center. After-school care for children (age 14+) with disabilities so family members can continue to work. Also offers day habilitation and residential facilities. Contact: 281-358-6172. http://www.villagelac.org/programs/respite-care/
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For Job Seekers with Disabilities

Job Search Websites & Job Training Resources:
- Ability Jobs – Affirmative Disability Action – AbilityJobs provides a system for people with disabilities to search for jobs. The site allows employers to post job opportunities and search through resumes to find dedicated and qualified people.
- AbilityLinks – AbilityLinks is a nationwide, web-based community where qualified job seekers with disabilities and inclusive employers meet and gain access to valuable networking opportunities. They offer online virtual job fairs for individuals searching for work to connect with employers.
- America’s Service Locator – American’s Service Locator connects individuals with employment opportunities, along with training services in their local areas through the American Job Center Network. These programs are sponsored through the U.S. Department of Labor. Connects to https://www.careeronestop.org/
- Bender Consulting Services – Bender Consulting Services, Inc.’s mission is to recruit and hire people with disabilities for competitive career opportunities in the public and private sectors. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bender Consulting Services also has a strong presence across the United States and in Canada through its sister company, Bender Consulting Services of Canada.
- Career Opportunities to Students with Disabilities (COSD) – This organization uniquely serves the community of college students with disabilities. They provide a Career Gateway system for students to search for job postings, with both student and employer accounts available.
- Enable America – Enable America works to help people with disabilities find jobs. The site also has a jobs board of various openings, from all over the country, which companies are able to post and job seekers can apply for.
- Hire Disability Solutions LLC – Hire Disability Solutions, LLC is committed to work for people with disabilities. They provide career services as part of that commitment and allow job seekers to post their resume, search for jobs or have access to resources regarding starting their own business.
- HirePotential – HirePotential focuses solely on the employment of people with disabilities, mature workers and veterans while working with companies and employers to provide services, education and resources on accommodations and accessibility.
- Manpower – Manpower is a job site that offers a temporary and full time job search opportunities by locality. Manpower also offers employment resources.
- SourceAmerica – SourceAmerica, a national nonprofit, is the leading source of job opportunities for a dedicated and highly qualified workforce – people with disabilities.
- Work For Good – Founded in 1999 as Opportunity Knocks, Work for Good is one of the first job boards focused exclusively on the nonprofit sector.

Internships / Fellowships for College Students/Graduates with Disabilities
- RespectAbility – The National Leadership Program
- AAPD – Summer Internship Program
Programs for Students and Youth with Disabilities:
- **Bridges to Work** – Bridges to Work helps more than a thousand young people, each year, most of whom are transitioning out of high school special education to prepare for the workplace, and find a job with an employer in need of qualified, entry-level applicants.
- **Project Search** – Project SEARCH is a one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. This innovative, business-led model features total workplace immersion, which facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and work site-based training and support.
- **Jewish Foundation for Group Homes** – Meaningful Opportunities for Successful Transitions (MOST™) is a one-year individualized program of activities and training designed to facilitate successful transition into the adult community. The MOST™ program serves as a portal for individuals and their families, through which they are introduced and integrated into a broad range of community resources.

Federal Disability Employment Resources:
- **USAJobs** – This website is the application portal for the wide range of career opportunities available within the federal government. Of special interest to job seekers with disabilities, you can use this site in conjunction with the Selective Placement Program Coordinator (SPPC) directory. The directory lists the SPPC contact, which helps to recruit, hire and accommodate people with disabilities within each government agency. The Selective Placement Program Coordinator will be able to connect people with disabilities to jobs posted in the USA Jobs website.
- **The Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP)** – WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal sector employers nationwide with highly motivated college students and recent graduates with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.
- **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)** – DOL provides a comprehensive website with not only an extensive list of employment resources, but also information regarding benefits, civil rights, community life, education, emergency preparedness, health, housing, technology and transportation for people with disabilities.
- **U.S. Department of Education (DOED)** – https://www.ed.gov/ DOED has published a variety of guidebooks that provide a range of range of explanations, further information and resources on a variety of disability services, including legal and policy definitions about eligibility.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** – The SBA offers a range of toolkits and resources for people with disabilities looking to start their own business and connects individuals to financial information regarding starting a business.

State Level Employment Resources:
- **State Apprenticeship Information** – All 50 states offer a wide range of apprenticeship programs leading to meaningful careers and credentials. Because of the new workforce law, all of these programs now are legally open and accessible for job seekers with disabilities.
- **State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Offices** – Find a list of each state’s Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Office, the contact information of the point person and link to website with further information and resources specific to each state and their unique employment services for people with disabilities.

- **Ticket to Work Program** – Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career and become financially independent, all while they keep their Medicare or Medicaid. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

- **Working While Disabled: How We Can Help** – The Social Security Administration offers this pamphlet to guide people who receive disability benefits on employment and employment issues. There are discussions about how to keep benefits and have a job.

**Employment Resources for Veterans with Disabilities:**

- **Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)** – This program is designed as an intensive training program to offer experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management for veterans with disabilities resulting from their service to our country post 9/11.

- **Hire Heroes USA – Employment resources for Veterans with Disabilities** – This nonprofit organization creates job opportunities for U.S. Military Veterans and their spouses through employment training and engagement in the workforce at no cost.

- **JOBHERO** – JOBHERO’s veteran career guide connects you to all kinds of information, advice, tools and programs that offer real-world help including transition and training resources as well as career resources for injured veterans.

- **Vet Jobs** – Vet Jobs allows military veterans to search for jobs, post resumes and find employment assistance. It is available to assist all members of the military, from all branches both enlisted or veteran status, and their families. [https://www.vets.gov/employment/job-seekers/service-disabled/](https://www.vets.gov/employment/job-seekers/service-disabled/)

- Walmart and Sam’s Club have committed to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2018 and this link connects veterans with the application process. This site provides job searches and applications for open positions, along with career counseling. [https://walmartcareerswithamission.com/](https://walmartcareerswithamission.com/)

**Public Service/Government Jobs:** Of special interest to those people with disabilities who are pursuing a career in public service, the federal government is a leading employer of qualified individuals with disabilities. Job seekers with disabilities should pay special attention to Sections 501 and 503 of the Rehabilitation Act. A new rule from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has set a clear goal for more federal agencies to hire talented people with disabilities. Likewise, Section 503 requires federal contractors to take active steps to recruit, hire, promote, and retain employees with disabilities.

**Employers Embracing Employees with Disabilities**

**Business Focused Disability Organizations:**

- **US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)**
- **National Organization on Disability (NOD)**
- **Disability Solutions @ Ability Beyond**
- **Return on Disability**
- **National Business & Disability Council (NBDC) at The Viscardi Center**
- **Bender Consulting Services**
- **Talent Acquisition Portal® (TAP)**
- **Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD)**
Resources for Employers
- Disability Equality Index (DEI) – The DEI is a national, transparent, annual benchmarking tool that offers businesses an opportunity to receive an objective score, on a scale of zero (0) to 100, on their disability inclusion policies and practices.
- Disability Employment Tracker – The Disability Employment Tracker™ is a free, confidential company assessment that measures disability and employment policies and practices and includes a confidential section on veteran employment practice.
- The Job Accommodation Network (AskJAN.org) – Working toward practical solutions that benefit both employer and employee, JAN helps people with disabilities enhance their employability, and shows employers how to capitalize on the value and talent that people with disabilities add to the workplace.
- Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (AskEARN.org) – EARN is a free resource that helps employers tap the benefits of disability diversity. They educate public- and private-sector organizations on ways to build inclusive workplace cultures and empower them to become leaders in the employment and advancement of people with disabilities.

Press Clips on the Benefits of Hiring People with Disabilities
- Hiring Americans with Disabilities, CNBC – Discussing what hiring people with disabilities means for an organization, with Rodger DeRose, Kessler Foundation CEO, and Gregory Wasson, Walgreen CEO. "People with disabilities want to work, and can absolutely be qualified to work," explains Wasson.
- What People Don’t Understand About Hiring Someone with A Physical Disability, Fast Company – Hiring someone with a physical disability isn’t an act of charity; it’s a decision that will bring a valuable perspective to your business. Here’s why and how you should welcome your newest hire.
- Giant Eagle Makes Case for Hiring People with Disabilities, Progressive Grocer – Grocer shares insights at National Disability Institute event.
- Making the Business Case for Hiring People with Disabilities, EconoTimes – National Disability Institute (NDI), in partnership with Kessler Foundation and Poses Family Foundation, assembled corporate leaders and community providers at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh for the event: Disability at Work, a Conversation with Randy Lewis. Mr. Lewis, a former Senior Vice President at Walgreens, shared evidence of “return on investment” when disability becomes a centerpiece of a corporation’s diversity and inclusion strategy to enhance workforce productivity and the bottom line.
- Viewpoint: How Hiring People with Disabilities Works for Businesses, Too, Society for Human Resource Management – Person-centered career planning makes the process of finding and retaining a job easier, but there are still many willing and capable people left out of the workforce. Job placement and training services are looking for new strategies to get people with disabilities employed.

Education Resources on Disability Issues
Teacher Resources:
- ADA 25th Anniversary Toolkit – This website provides a background on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation, its purpose and history. It also covers other legislation regarding rights for people with disabilities.
- ADL Curriculum Connections – The Anti- Defamation League provides lesson plans surrounding all aspects of people with disabilities and for all grade levels. This curriculum seeks to challenge the myths and stereotypes that surround people with disabilities.
- Born This Way Teacher’s Guide – The Emmy-ward winning show Born this Way features the lives, loves and experiences of seven young adults with Down syndrome. A&E has prepared a detailed viewing guide about the stigmas that society places on people with disabilities and various ways that the show tries to overcome those barriers with an inclusive, racially diverse message.
- **The Disability Rights Movement** – This lesson plan provides discussion topics, journal questions and a reading to teach your class about the ADA and the role people with disabilities played in its implementation, success and progress. The reading also discusses disability by focusing on the ability of the individual and using people first language.

- **How to Have an Inclusive Prom** – This guide for school dance organizers includes an introduction to the challenges and opportunities, tips for promoting the event, a checklist for securing an accessible facility and a sample non-discrimination policy for school boards to adopt.

- **Kids Included Together (KIT)** – KIT strives to help the world see the ability in every child. KIT helps others meaningfully include kids with disabilities through inclusion training, policy development and sharing best practices information and research. KIT has created several free inclusion resources including videos, tip sheets, checklists and booklets.

- **Museum of disABILITY History: Educational Resources** – This site provides extensive lessons plans, with worksheets and readings, on the history of people with disabilities, including the ADA of 1990. The lesson plans based off of the New York state curriculum also includes quizzes and other resources for different age groups.

- **Sesame Street Toolkit** – With the recent introduction of the character Julia to the show’s cast, Sesame Street can be a great way to talk about disability issues. The character of Julia is a child with autism and openly talks about her experiences in a way that children can understand. Their website showcases many different lessons for young children.

- **Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools** – This website is dedicated to the Unified Champion Schools program that builds on Special Olympics’ values, principles, practices, experiences and impacts to shape a generation that welcomes everyone. This programming promotes social inclusion in schools to ensure special education and general education students are equitably engaged.

- **Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools High School Playbook** – This resource provides many tips and resources to make high schools socially inclusive.

- **Special Olympics Unified Physical Education Resource** – This resource contains information that can be used in a physical education curriculum.

- **Teaching Tolerance** – Teaching Tolerance showcases the shared struggles and the intersectionality shard by people with disabilities and African Americans. This includes lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school students.

- **Who I am Outreach** – This toolkit talks about people with disabilities living life in various roles. Produced by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, this toolkit includes videos and stories about various people with disabilities.

**Historical Resources:**

- **Disability and History** – This Smithsonian page focuses on people with disabilities throughout history and the historical impact on the American culture surround disability.

- **Smithsonian National Museum of American History: The Disability Rights Movement** – This online exhibit focuses on the disability rights movement, with text to explain the various aspects of the movement and of the ADA along with pictures and video to accompany the text and show the historical significance.

- **Disability History: An Important Part of America’s Heritage** – This reading, developed by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, gives background information on the Americans with Disabilities Act along with the events that led to the passing of that legislation. The reading also includes additional education resources, some of which give additional information on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – History & Summary** – This video provides a simple overview of the history of IDEA and the struggles of students with disabilities to have the right to a free, appropriate public education protected by law.
- **Wisconsin Reflecting on 20th Anniversary of ADA** – This document that demonstrates the struggle of passing ADA, how far rights for people with disabilities have come but still how far there is to go not only in Wisconsin but nationwide.

**Universal Design Resources:**
- **CAST** – CAST is a nonprofit education and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through Universal Design for Learning.
- **Understood.org** – This hub possesses great resources for caretakers trying to figure how to navigate the education system. There are tips on how to ensure a universally accessible classroom on the site.
- **UDL Center** – The Center for Universal Design for Learning serves as a hub where teachers from all over can share tips, resources and other great tools, which helps spread Universal Design in the classroom. In addition, the site hosts an online version of the *Universal Design for Learning* by David Gordon, Anne Meyer and David Rose.
- **Meet the Normals – Adventure in Universal Design** – This is an animated short that focuses on the process and challenges of universal design. There are audio description, subtitles, and clear voices. It is a great video to understand the overall process of universal design.
- **UDL Credentialing and Certification Initiative** – This website is an initiative to develop a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) credentialing and certification process to recognize best practices in education program design, product development and classroom instruction.

**Resources for College Students with Disabilities:**
- **Think College** – Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability. With a commitment to equity and excellence, Think College supports evidence-based and student centered research and practice by generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy, and engaging with students, professionals and families.
- **National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD)** – The National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD) is a federally funded project under the U.S. Department of Education (P116D150005), through the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). NCCSD’s home is at the Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD).
- **Disability Rights, Education Activism and Mentoring (DREAM)** – DREAM (Disability Rights, Education Activism, and Mentoring) is a national organization for and by college students with disabilities. DREAM advocated for disability culture, community and pride, and hopes to serve as an online virtual disability cultural center for students who want to connect with other students. They are supported in their work by sponsoring organization National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD) and based at the Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD).
- **Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)** – AHEAD is a professional membership organization for individuals involved in the development of policy and in the provision of quality services to meet the needs of persons with disabilities involved in all areas of higher education.
- **Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability (CPED)** – For more than 25 years, the Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability (CPED) has been a national leader in promoting access to postsecondary education for students with disabilities. Their work combines research-based evidence and professional training to inform the field and advance postsecondary education opportunities for students.
- **Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology (DO-IT)** – The DO-IT (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology) Center is dedicated to empowering people with
disabilities through technology and education. It promotes awareness and accessibility—in both the classroom and the workplace—to maximize the potential of individuals with disabilities and make our communities more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive.

- **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Disability Consortium** – This project involved a group of colleagues working in disability services at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities (PBCUs), working in partnership with the Taishoff Center at Syracuse University. They worked to identify strategies for providing culturally responsive disability services and classroom instruction to Black and African American college students with disabilities on all campuses, while also trying to increase the number of Black and African American students with disabilities going to college and graduating with undergraduate and graduate degrees.

- **Mason LIFE Program** – The Mason LIFE Program is an innovative post-secondary program at George Mason University for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who desire a university experience in a supportive academic environment.

- **2017 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship** – Thanks to a contribution from NBCUniversal, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities who are interested in pursuing a career in the communications, media or the entertainment industry. Recipients will receive $5,625 to help cover the cost of education at their current college or university.

**Background Reading Resources:**

- **Bookshare** – Bookshare is an accessible online library for individuals with print disabilities, with free memberships available for qualified students and schools. This can be a great resource in the classroom for students with print disabilities with over 200,000 titles on the site.

- **Goodreads Shelf on People with Disabilities** – This site lists popular novels in which the protagonist or other major characters is a person with a disability.

- **Disability in Kid Literature** – Disability in Kid Lit looks for and reviews disability representation in children’s literature. Their contributors are people with disabilities who love literature and wants to help readers find themselves in characters.

- **Books Written by People with Disabilities** – This site lists books that are written by and are about people with disabilities, most being true stories. They offer insight into the lives of people with disabilities and can be used in classroom discussions or book reports.

**Recommended Reading for Children:**


- Llano, Gabriella and Tiziana Vazquez. In My World: Down Syndrome (AuthorHouse, 2013). With the support of her family, a girl with Down syndrome lives her life and learns to accept being herself. Appropriate for children in elementary school.


- Paticoff, Melanie. Sophie’s Tales: Overcoming Obstacles (Sophie’s Tales, 2012). A dog with a cochlear implant meets Champ, another dog who wears glasses, and they talk about disability. Appropriate for children ages 3 to 10.
- Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. We’ll Paint the Octopus Red (Woodbine House, 1998). A six-year-old girl learns how to be a good big sister to a baby brother with Down syndrome. Appropriate for children in kindergarten to third grade.

Recommended Reading for Adults:
- Shapiro, Joseph P. No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement (Broadway Books, 1994). An historical, in-depth look at people with disabilities. The book also takes a close look at the advocacy efforts that led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Solomon, Andrew. Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity (Scribner, 2012). A deeply touching look at how parents and children can learn to accept and embrace differences. The people featured in this book demonstrate how lives with extreme challenges also have extreme value.

Resources for Policy Makers

RespectAbility Testimony
- DOL Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (ACICIED) Testimony March 2015
- ACICIED Testimony October 2015
- ACICIED Testimony July 2016
- Gaps and Opportunities in the WIOA Presentation
- House Ways and Means Committee Testimony
- Illinois Employment First Plan Testimony
- New York State Employment First Commission Testimony
- Top 10 Things to Know about WIOA and Jobs for People with Disabilities
- WIOA State Plan Checklist

Reports on Best Practices
- A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities — 2012-2013 Chair’s Initiative-National Governors Association (NGA)
- Article – Workers First – National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities (NASDDS)
- Disability Employment First Planning Toolkit – Developed in partnerships with Best Buddies, The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and National Organization on Disability (NOD).
- Establishing a National Employment First Agenda – Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE).
- Filling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities – US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)
- Promising Occupations for Low-Income Families by State – Mathematica Policy Research (MPR)
- Leading Practices on Disability Inclusion – US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) and the US Chamber of Commerce.
- Q & A’s on State Employment First Policies – State Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
- **Work Matters: A Framework for States on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities** – The Council of State Governments (CSG) and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

**Disability and Employment Data Sources:**
- **Total Disabled Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Beneficiaries, Ages 18-64 by State** – Kaiser Family Foundation
- **Total SSI Beneficiaries by State** – Social Security Administration
- **Disability Statistics** – Cornell University
- **Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics** – Bureau of Labor Statistics
- **Access to Integrated Employment (AIE) Project** - Institute for Community Inclusion
- **Annual Disability Statistics Compendium** - University of New Hampshire-Institute on Disability
- **Disability Resources** – Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

**State Data and State Plan Comments:**
- **Texas**: Download the PDF [here](#). Download the PPT [here](#). Read RespectAbility’s public comments on its WIOA State Plan [here](#).

**Ending the School to Prison Pipeline**

**Government Resources:**
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)**
- **Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**
- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)**
- **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**
- **CSG Justice Center - Collaborative Approaches to Public Safety**

**Advocacy and Research Resources:**
- **Prison Policy Initiative**
- **The Coalition for Public Safety**
- **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**
- **Vera Institute of Justice**
- **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**
- **NAACP**
- **The Arc - National Center on Criminal Justice & Disability (NCCJD)**
- **Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of the Deaf (HEARD)**
- **National Disability Right Network (NDRN)**
- **Pew Research Center**
- **Center for American Progress (CAP)**
- **American Enterprise Institute (AEI)**

**Philanthropic Organizations:**
- **Anne E. Casey Foundation – Juvenile Justice**
- **The Pew Charitable Trust**
- **Open Society Foundations**

**Model Programs**
- **Social Impact Bonds**
Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP)

DC/Maryland Specific Resources:
- One by 1, Inc.

Inclusive Philanthropy

RespectAbility Articles
- Rethinking Disability- Donors Launch an Experiment That Could Spark Seminal Social Reform
  Philanthropy Roundtable – Spring 2017
- How Foundations Can Ensure Diversity Efforts Include People With Disabilities
  Chronicle of Philanthropy - December 20, 2016
- Ignorance is the Enemy Within
  Ford Foundation Newsletter - September 12, 2016
- Ford’s Push on Disability Rights Should Be a Model for Philanthropy
  Chronicle of Philanthropy – September 12, 2016
- Inclusive Philanthropy
  EJewish Philanthropy – April 17, 2016
- https://www.ncrp.org/2015/07/respect-is-key-to-inclusive-funding.html Respect is Key to Inclusive Funding
- Celebrating ADA: It’s Time to Add a Disability Lens to Our Philanthropy
  DS Blog – June 18, 2015
- Lessons From Failed Giving to Charity
  Huffington Post – September 12, 2014
- Is Philanthropy Sufficiently Proactive on the Issues of People with Disabilities?
  Nonprofit Quarterly – June 20, 2013
- Diverse Managers - Philanthropy's Next Hurdle
  Council on Foundations
- Rethinking Disability- Donors Launch an Experiment That Could Spark Seminal Social Reform
  Philanthropy Roundtable – Spring 2017

Disability Funders and Inclusive Statements
- Council on Foundations: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Disabilities Funders Group
- Change Philanthropy

Additional Articles
How Much Does It Cost To Build A Handicap Ramp?
Tips For Parents Of Children With Disabilities Who Want Them To Succeed In School
Childproofing Your Home For A Child With Vision Impairment
How To Cope With Sudden Illness Or Disability
Substance Abuse And Caregiving
34 Great Jobs For People With Disabilities
Comprehensive Guide To Home Accessibility For People With Disabilities In Recovery
What Are Adaptive Sports For People With Disabilities?
ADDENDUM

ACRONYMS
Every field has a language and acronyms that are sometimes mystifying to the newcomer. Below are many of the acronyms of organizations and terminology used in the field of disability services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDD</td>
<td>American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<td>AAPD</td>
<td>American Association of People with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA</td>
<td>Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
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<td>ABA</td>
<td>Adaptive Behavior Approach</td>
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<td>ABI</td>
<td>Acquired Brain Injury</td>
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<td>ACB</td>
<td>American Council of the Blind</td>
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<td>ADA</td>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
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<td>ADAPT</td>
<td>Adult Developmental and Psychiatric Treatment</td>
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<td>ADD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Disorder</td>
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<td>ADDA</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Disorder Association</td>
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<td>ADHD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
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<td>AFB</td>
<td>American Foundation for the Blind</td>
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<td>AFC</td>
<td>Adult Foster Care</td>
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<td>AIT</td>
<td>Auditory Integration Therapy</td>
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<td>APA</td>
<td>American Psychological Association</td>
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<td>APS</td>
<td>Adult Protective Services</td>
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<td>ARI</td>
<td>Autism Research Institute</td>
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<td>ASA</td>
<td>Autism Society of America</td>
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<td>ASAT</td>
<td>Association of Autism Treatment</td>
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<td>ASD</td>
<td>Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
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<td>ASES A</td>
<td>Association for Specialized Elementary School Accreditation</td>
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<td>ASL</td>
<td>American Sign Language</td>
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<td>ASPIE</td>
<td>Asperger’s Syndrome Parent &amp; Professional Information Exchange</td>
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<td>BCLS</td>
<td>Basic Civil Legal Services</td>
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<td>BHO</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Organization</td>
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<td>BJE</td>
<td>Bureau of Jewish Education (Jewish Federation of Greater Houston)</td>
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<td>CAP</td>
<td>Client Assistance Program</td>
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<td>CART</td>
<td>Communication Access Realtime Translation</td>
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<td>CEC</td>
<td>Council for Exceptional Children</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Center for Disease Control</td>
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<td>CDS</td>
<td>Consumer Directed Services</td>
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<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<td>CHADD</td>
<td>Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
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<td>CHIP</td>
<td>Children’s Health Insurance Program</td>
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<td>CHS</td>
<td>Center for Hearing and Speech</td>
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<td>CIL</td>
<td>Center for Independent Living</td>
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<td>COTWD</td>
<td>Coalition for Texans With Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Cerebral Palsy</td>
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<td>CPAC</td>
<td>Citizens Planning Advisory Council</td>
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<td>CPS</td>
<td>Children’s Protective Services</td>
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<td>CTD</td>
<td>Coalition of Texans with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>DD</td>
<td>Developmentally Delayed</td>
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<td>DDA</td>
<td>Developmental Disabilities Assistance &amp; Bill of Rights Act of 1975</td>
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<td>DADS</td>
<td>Department of Aging &amp; Disability Services</td>
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<td>DARS</td>
<td>Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services</td>
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<td>DFPS</td>
<td>Department of Family &amp; Protective Services</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHHS</td>
<td>Division for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIR</td>
<td>Developmental-Individual Differences-Relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLRP</td>
<td>Disability Law Resource Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOL</td>
<td>Department of Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPC</td>
<td>Disability Policy Consortium</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSA</td>
<td>Down's Syndrome Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSAH</td>
<td>Down's Syndrome Association of Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSHS</td>
<td>Department of State Health Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>EARN</td>
<td>Employer Assistance &amp; Recruiting Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECI</td>
<td>Early Childhood Intervention</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEOC</td>
<td>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESC</td>
<td>Education Service Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>FACES</td>
<td>Functional Academic Curriculum for Exceptional Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAPE</td>
<td>Free Appropriate Public Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FASD</td>
<td>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEAT</td>
<td>Families for Early Autism Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERPA</td>
<td>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFPS</td>
<td>Fun, Fair, Positive Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIE</td>
<td>Full and Individual Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>GHAAPD</td>
<td>Greater Houston Athletic Association for the Physically Disabled</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAVA</td>
<td>Help America Vote Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBA</td>
<td>Houston Bar Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCDE</td>
<td>Harris County [TX] Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCIL</td>
<td>Houston Center for Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCPC</td>
<td>Harris County [TX] Psychiatric Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCPSC</td>
<td>Harris County [TX] Protective Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCS</td>
<td>Home and Community-based Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFA</td>
<td>High Functioning Autism</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Health and Human Services [Federal/State]</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHSC</td>
<td>Health and Human Services Commission</td>
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<td>HISD</td>
<td>Houston Independent School District</td>
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<td>HLRS</td>
<td>Houston Lawyer Referral Service</td>
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<td>I &amp; R</td>
<td>Information and Referral</td>
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<td>ICF</td>
<td>Intermediate Care Facility</td>
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<td>IDD</td>
<td>Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<td>IDEA</td>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</td>
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<td>IEE</td>
<td>Independent Educational Evaluation</td>
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<td>IEP</td>
<td>Individualized Education Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHCS</td>
<td>In Home Crisis Support</td>
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<td>IHFS</td>
<td>In Home &amp; Family Support</td>
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<td>ILRU</td>
<td>Independent Living Research Utilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRA</td>
<td>Individualized Residential Alternative</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<td>ITP</td>
<td>Individualized Transition Plan</td>
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<td>JAN</td>
<td>Job Accommodation Network</td>
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<td>JCRS</td>
<td>Jewish Children’s Regional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>JDRC</td>
<td>The Jewish Deaf Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>JFA</td>
<td>Justice for All</td>
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<td>JFS</td>
<td>Jewish Family Service</td>
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<td>LDAA</td>
<td>Learning Disabilities Association of America</td>
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<td>LDAT</td>
<td>Learning Disabilities Association of Texas</td>
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<td>LEA</td>
<td>Local Education Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSLA</td>
<td>Lone Star Legal Aid</td>
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<td>MOPD</td>
<td>Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHA</td>
<td>Mental Health America</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHMRA</td>
<td>The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td>National Council on Disability</td>
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<td>NCLB</td>
<td>No Child Left Behind</td>
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<td>NCLD</td>
<td>National Center for Learning Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCWD</td>
<td>National Council on Workforce Disability/Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDS</td>
<td>National Down Syndrome Society</td>
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<td>NDRN</td>
<td>National Disability Rights Network</td>
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<td>NDSS</td>
<td>National Down Syndrome Society</td>
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<td>NICHCY</td>
<td>National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</td>
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<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<td>NIMH</td>
<td>National Institute of Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NJCD</td>
<td>National Jewish Council for Disabilities</td>
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<td>NOD</td>
<td>National Organization on Disability</td>
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<td>NPSAA</td>
<td>National Private School Accreditation Alliance</td>
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<td>OCD</td>
<td>Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder</td>
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<td>Office of Civil Rights</td>
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<td>ODD</td>
<td>Oppositional Defiant Disorder</td>
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<td>ODEP</td>
<td>Office of Disability Employment Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSEP</td>
<td>Office of Special Education Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSERS</td>
<td>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAAT</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PABSS</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADD</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAIMI</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAIR</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>PART</td>
<td>Parents Association for the Retarded of Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATBI</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAVA</td>
<td>Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access</td>
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<td>PDD</td>
<td>Pervasive Developmental Disorder</td>
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<td>PDD-NOS</td>
<td>Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>PECS</td>
<td>Picture Exchange Communication Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRN</td>
<td>Partners Resource Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTACH</td>
<td>Parents for Torah for all Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTI</td>
<td>Parent Training &amp; Information (Centers/Programs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACS</td>
<td>Southern Association of Colleges and Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATH</td>
<td>Society for Accessible Travel &amp; Hospitality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPAC</td>
<td>Special Education Parent Advisory Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SES  Supplemental Educational Services
SHL  Supported Home Living
SIB  Self Injurious Behavior
SID  Sensory Integration Dysfunction
SIRE  Self Improvement through Riding Education
SSA  Social Security Administration
SSDI  Social Security Disability Income
SSI  Supplemental [Social] Security Income
STARS  Specialized Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
TBI  Traumatic Brain Injury
TCB  Texas Commission for the Blind
TCDD  Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
TCEC  Texas Council for Exceptional Children
TDD  Telecommunication Device for the Deaf
TDH  Texas Department of Health
TDHS  Texas Department of Human Services
TDPRS  Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services
TEA  Texas Education Agency
TIRR  Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research
TTY  Telephone Typewriter
TWWIIA  Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act
TXHML  Texas Home Living Waiver
UCP  United Cerebral Palsy
UTHCPS  University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center
VAST  Vocational Advancement & Social Skills Training
VOR  Voice of the Retarded

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Council of Canadians with Disabilities  http://www.ccdonline.ca/en
Disability-Specific Organizations  http://www.makoa.org/org.htm
Easter Seals - Greater Houston  http://www.eastersealshouston.org/
Epilepsy Foundation Texas  http://www.eftx.org
ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities & Gifted Education.  http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/eric/index.html
Houston Area Community Services  [http://www.hacstxs.org/housing_services.html](http://www.hacstxs.org/housing_services.html)
MetroLift  [http://www.ridemetro.org/Services/Lift.aspx](http://www.ridemetro.org/Services/Lift.aspx)
National Center on Accessibility.  [http://ncaonline.org/](http://ncaonline.org/)
National Federation of the Blind of Texas.  [http://nfbtx.org](http://nfbtx.org)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society Lone Star Chapter.  [http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/texas](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/texas)
Texas 211  [https://www.211texas.org/211/](https://www.211texas.org/211/)
Texas Association of the Deaf.  [http://www.deafscience.org](http://www.deafscience.org)
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.  [https://hhs.texas.gov/](https://hhs.texas.gov/)
Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Service.  [http://www.twc.state.tx.us/](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/)
Texas: Governor's Committee on Disabilities.  [http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/about/](http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/about/)
Texas Information and Referral Network. (Dial: 211)  [http://www.211texas.org/211/](http://www.211texas.org/211/)
Through the Looking Glass: Serving Families with Disabilities.  [http://www.lookingglass.org](http://www.lookingglass.org)
U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services.  [http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html)

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHANNELVIEW ISD.</td>
<td>281-452-8002</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cvisd.org">http://www.cvisd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEAR CREEK ISD.</td>
<td>281-284-0000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccisd.org">http://www.ccisd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD</td>
<td>281-897-4000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cfisd.net/">http://www.cfisd.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEER PARK ISD</td>
<td>832-668-7000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dpisd.org/">http://www.dpisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT BEND ISD</td>
<td>281-634-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fortbendisd.com">http://www.fortbendisd.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIENDSWOOD ISD</td>
<td>281-482-1267</td>
<td><a href="http://www.myfisd.com">http://www.myfisd.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School District</td>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMBLE ISD</td>
<td>281-641-1000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.humbleisd.net">http://www.humbleisd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATY ISD</td>
<td>281-396-6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.katyisd.org/">http://www.katyisd.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>KLEIN ISD</td>
<td>832-249-4000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kleinisd.net">http://www.kleinisd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA MARQUE ISD</td>
<td>409-938-4251</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LA PORTE ISD</td>
<td>281-604-7000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lpisd.org/">http://www.lpisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW CANEY ISD</td>
<td>281-577-8600</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newcaneyisd.org/">http://www.newcaneyisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASADENA ISD</td>
<td>713-74000000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pasadenaisd.org/">http://www.pasadenaisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEARLAND ISD</td>
<td>281-485-3203</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pearlandisd.org/pisd/default.htm">http://www.pearlandisd.org/pisd/default.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANTA FE ISD</td>
<td>409-925-3526</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BRANCH ISD</td>
<td>713-464-1511</td>
<td><a href="http://www.springbranchisd.com/">http://www.springbranchisd.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING ISD</td>
<td>281-891-6000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.springisd.org/">http://www.springisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAFFORD ISD</td>
<td>281-261-9200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.staffordmsd.org/">http://www.staffordmsd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXAS CITY ISD</td>
<td>409-942-2713</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcisd.org/">http://www.tcisd.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOMBALL ISD</td>
<td>281-357-3100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tomballisd.net/">http://www.tomballisd.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLER ISD</td>
<td>936-931-3685</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wallerisd.net/">http://www.wallerisd.net/</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* For other Texas School Districts, visit the Texas Education Agency District Locator Page at (512) 463-9734 https://tea.texas.gov/

**LEARNING DIFFERENCES: INFORMATION & RESOURCES.**

- American Association of School Administrators [http://www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org)
- American Institutes for Research [http://www.air.org](http://www.air.org)
- Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA) [http://www.add.org](http://www.add.org)
- ADHD Resources [http://www.addresources.org](http://www.addresources.org)
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry [https://www.aacap.org/](https://www.aacap.org/)
- The Arc Master Trust [http://www.thearctrust.org/resources/](http://www.thearctrust.org/resources/)
- Autism and Addiction: Coping with and Treating Your Dual Diagnosis [http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2329-6488.1000170](http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2329-6488.1000170)
- Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD) [http://www.chadd.org/](http://www.chadd.org/)
- Education Development Center [http://www.edc.org/](http://www.edc.org/)
- Educational Resources Education Center [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/eric/index.html](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/eric/index.html)
- 8 Steps for Learning Disabled Students who want to go to College [www.usnews.com/education](http://www.usnews.com/education)
- Kidsource Online [http://www.kidsource.com](http://www.kidsource.com)
- Learning Ally [https://www.learningally.org/](https://www.learningally.org/)
- Learning Disabilities Association of Texas (LDAT) [http://www.ldatx.org](http://www.ldatx.org)
Learning Disabilities Online
Learning Disabilities Resources
Ability Center
National Association of School Psychologists
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Dissemination Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities
http://www.parentcenterhub.org/disability-landing/
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Mental Health
Neuhaus Education Center
Personal Finance Guide for People with Disabilities
http://www.medicaresupplementalinsurance.com/disabilities.hmt
Texas Education Agency
Tourette Syndrome Association
Thirty four Great Jobs for People with Disabilities
people/who-are-disabled.asp
Travel Tips for Workers with Disabilities
U.S. Department of Education
http://www.ldonline.org/
http://www.ldresources.com/
http://www.discovernac.org
http://www.nasponline.org/
http://www.ncld.org/
http://www.nih.gov/
http://www.neuhaus.org/
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/
http://www.tsa-usa.org/
https://www.trade-schools.net/careers-for-
people/who-are-disabled.asp
https://monster.com
http://www.ed.gov/