

# Advocacy Resource and Groups Guide

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Below is a list of advocacy groups and resources for individuals with disabilities. Advocacy resources are essential tools that empower students and adults with disabilities to express their rights and needs effectively. These resources provide information on available support services, ways to connect with advocacy groups, and ways to build your self-advocacy. This is a starting point of national, state, and local groups. Feel free to add to this list.

## National Level

### [American Printing House for the Blind \(APH\)](#)

- Provides free information and resources to support individuals who are blind or low vision.
- The site has information for school, postsecondary, and work. There's also a phone number and email if needing resources help finding resources.

### [National Deaf Center \(NDC\)](#)

- Sharing information, networks, and strategies to improve education and training for deaf people.
- This link goes to the Student Advocacy Toolkit to share student experiences, advocacy tips, and ways to prepare for school and work.

### [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative – Youth Engagement Transition Initiative \(NTACT:C YETI\)](#)

- Group of young adults building leadership skills through networking and activities.
- Site includes link to previously recorded webinars and various slides to build these skills.

### [Youth Engagement Now \(YEN\)](#)

- Strategies and tools built by youth with disabilities to support youth partners in projects that are looking to create change.
- Site lays out three steps to create a youth lead groups and how to sustain them. Includes bios of other similar youth and information about their advocacy journeys.

## State Level

### [Disability Rights Ohio \(DRO\)](#)

- They advocate for an equitable Ohio for people with disabilities and have a variety of supports and services available through their general website.
- This self-advocacy specific site lists resources by topic, disability type, or areas of interest for advocacy efforts.

### [Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities \(OCECD\)](#)

- The Youth Advocacy section has a variety of tools from videos of individuals sharing their advocacy experiences, advocacy comics, and tools.

### [Ohio Self-Determination Association \(OSDA\)](#)

- This group raises awareness of self-determination which means the ability to make choices and decisions based on your own preferences and interests.
- Check out this site for more information for trainings and meetings.

### [Project Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility \(Project STIR\)](#)

- This is a training program for self-advocates and allies to help individuals advocate for themselves and build leadership skills.
- Site shares how to connect and meet trainers in Ohio.

## Regional and Local Level

### [The Arc of Ohio](#)

- With a focus on individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, this group provides advocacy resources across the state and locally to support individuals and families.
- Site shares how to connect with them to get more information.

### [Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council \(OSILC\)](#)

- They help connect individuals with resources like advocacy, peer support, and skills training to live independently and in their community.
- Site has a map of Ohio to find which SILCs support which counties.

### [People First of Ohio](#)

- Focus on self-advocating, helping others become self-advocates, and work on local issues to share at the state level to create change.
- Site shows location of local chapters throughout Ohio.

### [We Thrive Together](#)

- Group of individuals throughout the state that meet virtually for advocacy and social connection.
- Site shares how to connect with events and activities.

### [Community Centers for the Deaf \(CCD\) Search](#)

- Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) Search
- Use this search engine to find a CCD in your area or learn more about different topics. Site has a map of Ohio to find which CCD's support which counties by clicking "Contact a CCD".