

THRESHOLDS

HOME | HEALTH | HOPE

ADVOCACY

Advocacy Organizations

(Also see NAMI and DBSA, Community Resources-> Organizations)

Access Living

115 W Chicago Ave
Chicago, IL 60654
(312) 640-2100

www.accessliving.org

Access Living is a national leader in the disability advocacy community. They also specialize in the enforcement of civil rights. Access Living offers peer support, education and training, community organizing, counseling and advocacy regarding financial benefits and legal discrimination, deaf services and information, and more. Their staff and volunteers combine knowledge and personal experience to deliver programs and services that equip people with disabilities to advocate for themselves.

American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU)

The ACLU is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, the state Constitution, and state/federal human rights laws. The ACLU accomplishes its goals through litigating, lobbying and educating the public on a broad array of civil liberties issues.

ACLU advocates in the areas of racial justice, religious liberty, freedom of expression, the rights of children and people with disabilities, criminal justice reform, fairness for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender individuals, and reproductive justice.

Equip for Equality

20 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60602
(800) 537-2632

www.equipforequality.org

The mission of Equip for Equality is to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with physical and mental disabilities in Illinois. Equip for Equality provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, legislative advocacy and disability rights education.

Health and Disability Advocates (HDA)

205 W. Monroe Street, Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60606

(312) 223-9600

www.hdadvocates.org

HDA offers legal representation and resources to help low-income individuals with disabilities get needed benefits and services, including SSI, SSDI, Medicare and Medicaid. HDA offers advice on how earnings affect public benefits. Materials are available on a wide range of programs. To view current resource materials available from HDA, [click here to go to the site's Materials Library and search the online database](#). HDA also offers assistance to Illinois Veterans, Military Service-Members, National Guard and Reservists, survivors and their families.

The Illinois Mental Health Summit

<http://mentalhealthsummit.wordpress.com/>

The Mental Health Summit has been organized as the Illinois mental health community's united voice on mental health policy. Its goal is to make access, comprehensiveness, recovery, continuity of care and quality the hallmarks of mental health services in Illinois. The Summit works primarily with state and local policymakers to make this a reality.

Mandel Law Clinic

<http://www.law.uchicago.edu/clinics/mandel>

The Mandel Clinic is a legal aid office. The Clinic specializes in the areas of criminal justice, civil rights, employment discrimination, and the rights of the mentally ill. The Clinic engages in litigation, legislative advocacy, and community-based advocacy.

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Room 104

Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 744-6673

www.cityofchicago.org/Disabilities

MOPD promotes an understanding of issues concerning people with disabilities and assists both individuals and organizations in working to comply with a variety of laws and regulations relating to disability, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.