“Every citizen has a role in creating a community that is disability friendly. Our work begins by connecting people to opportunities.

Tim Harrington, Executive Director

Advocates for people with disabilities. Catalysts for all they can achieve.

One in four people have a disability that impacts the way they connect with the world around them.

The Ability Center works as an advocate and thought leader, changing both attitudes and real world conditions for people with disabilities.

We advocate, educate, partner, and provide services supporting people with disabilities to thrive within their community. Though there's much work to be done, we're closer than ever to realizing the fulfillment of that mission.

51% At least 51% of our employees and trustees are individuals living with disabilities.
Disability friendly describes a community that values and welcomes the potential and participation of each of its citizens and visitors—including those who live differently.

We are working across sectors that make a difference—education, employment, health care, housing, transportation, technology, and social opportunities that enhance daily life.

Together, our partnerships and initiatives will make our community the most disability-friendly in the nation.

**HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES.**

Programs are often funded by grants and/or philanthropic donations with specific participant eligibility guidelines. Please call our office or visit our website to learn about eligibility requirements.

**THE ABILITY CENTER**
5605 Monroe Street
Sylvania, OH 43560
419.885.5733

abilitycenter.org

**BRYAN SATELLITE OFFICE**
1425 East High Street
Suite 108
Bryan, OH 43506
419.633.1400
SERVICE AREA

Counties served include:

DEFIANCE
FULTON
HENRY
LUCAS
OTTAWA
WILLIAMS
WOOD
YOUTH AND TRANSITION SERVICES

Services are offered to youth and their families to support independent living goals through best practices and partnerships with schools, service agencies, and community organizations.

Staff will engage youth in activities that align with their skills and interests including recreation, employment, self-advocacy, and transition.

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

Interactive classes are offered to youth and young adults ages 13 to 26 looking to develop skills for independent living, competitive employment, or community-based living. Classes are free of charge and run on a school calendar year.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

• Employment Preparation
• Independent Living
• Cooking and Nutrition
• Financial Management
• Personal Safety
• Self-advocacy
• Sex Education
• Social Skills
• Leadership Development
• Volunteering
Next Steps Summer Program

Our summer initiative prepares high school students with disabilities for the next phase of life.

Participants are paired with local job sites to master employability skills through paid work opportunities.

Students reside in a college dorm throughout the six-week program and gain valuable independent living skills including cooking, laundry, and time management.

High School Juniors, Seniors, or Recent Graduates Are Eligible.

Participant Outcomes:
• Build an impressive resume and sharpen interview skills
• Learn to perform in a professional work environment
• Manage everyday tasks independently
HOME MODIFICATION PROJECTS are completed to ensure safety in the home. We strive to keep people independent and thriving in their community.

PROJECTS INCLUDE:
• Grab bars
• Handrails
• Low-rise steps
• Permanent ramps (wooden)
• Stair lifts
• Temporary ramps (aluminum)

HOME ACCESSIBILITY
Home modification projects are completed to ensure safety in the home. We strive to keep people independent and thriving in their community.

PROJECTS INCLUDE:
• Commodes
• Raised toilet seats
• Shower chairs
• Transfer benches
• Wheelchairs

Disability-related equipment is available to loan or gift free of charge. All items are cleaned and sanitized before lending.

Contact us to inquire about specific equipment needs. Donations of durable medical equipment are accepted.

EQUIPMENT GENERALLY AVAILABLE:
• Commodes
• Raised toilet seats
• Shower chairs
• Transfer benches
• Wheelchairs

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY/MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

CONTACT COMMUNITY LIVING
**SERVICE DOGS**

People living with mobility disabilities are paired with service dogs specifically trained to complete tasks needed to increase their partner’s independence. These dogs have protected public access rights and are considered assistive devices.

**TRAINED TASKS:**
- Activate access buttons and switches
- Pick up and carry items
- Open doors, cupboards, refrigerators, dryers, etc.
- Provide balance while walking

**THERAPY DOGS**

Therapy dogs offer support and companionship in the home to children and adults with disabilities.

**BENEFITS OF A THERAPY DOG:**
- Improve speech
- Decrease anxiety
- Enhance social skills
- Increase confidence

**SCHOOL THERAPY DOGS**

School therapy dogs serve as a resource to comfort when needed and encourage students throughout the school year. The dog resides with a member of the school’s staff.

**IMPACT OF A SCHOOL THERAPY DOG:**
- Ease students during counseling sessions
- Improve student motivation
- Incentivize students to improve behavior
Staff assist private and public partners in their efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights legislation. Self-advocacy materials and resources on ADA compliance are available for download on our website.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY
Advocacy staff works at local, state and federal levels to promote positive change for people with disabilities. Impact on a national scale is produced from our efforts within our key focus areas:

HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH CARE
PUBLIC ACCESS

POLICY ADVOCACY AND ANALYSIS
We conduct policy analysis to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live in an inclusive community of their choosing.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT
Staff assist private and public partners in their efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights legislation.

Self-advocacy materials and resources on ADA compliance are available for download on our website.
WAYS TO ENGAGE

VOLUNTEER
• Build a ramp
• Join our Auxiliary
• Volunteer for an event
• Foster an assistance dog in training

DONATE
• Give online
• Gift durable medical equipment
• Host a fundraiser
• Sponsor a puppy

PARTNERSHIPS
Join us as we work to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities and inspire a culture of inclusion. Become a partner in creating the most disability-friendly community in the country.

EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT:
abilitycenter.org/disabilityfriendly