



About the DLC's Public Policy Advocacy

The Disability Law Center (DLC) bases its public policy views on the belief that people with disabilities have the constitutional right to fully participate in our democratic society. Our 2010 legislative agenda is informed by our mission, organizational values, current policies, guidance from the Board of Trustees and input from our clients and constituents across Utah.

Advocating for Critical Programs

The DLC appreciates the vital role government plays in protecting the rights of Utahns with disabilities and their families. However, we also understand that difficult choices must be made in response to the current economic downturn. As the legislature contemplates another across-the-board cut, we will advocate for the protection of critical health and human service programs by ensuring that:

- One-time federal economic stimulus money is replaced
- Utah's limited resources are spent as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible
- Individuals with disabilities and their families are receiving the right supports at the right time in the right place
- All potential revenue sources, including bonding, taxes, and the rainy day fund, are responsibly utilized

Expanding Community-Based Mental Health Care

- Ensure that local mental health authority clients continue to receive critical supports
- Advocate for the a community-based system of care for children and adults with mental illness
- Educate lawmakers about and develop support for a pilot project of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team model

Preserve Home and Community-Based Supports

- Maintain DSPD programs which promote the independence of people with disabilities and support their families
- Facilitate communication between DSPD and those it serves by restoring the DSPD board
- Take advantage of policy and programmatic options designed to help families support their loved ones at home or in the community

Monitoring of Rights Issues

- Protect educational, housing, and voting rights