

# Advocates for Access



Advocates for Access is a private, not-for-profit, non-residential organization established in 1985, managed by and for people with disabilities. To fulfill our mission, we provide direct services, combined with advocacy for social change to allow greater integration of persons with disabilities into mainstream life.

Advocates for Access services the counties of Peoria, Tazewell, Fulton and Woodford. We serve people of all ages and disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live. We also work with private organizations, local communities, service providers, businesses and industries that require technical assistance in responding to the needs of people with disabilities.

As a center for independent living, we provide the following core services:

**Independent Living Skills Training** provides individualized instruction in life skills by setting and achieving goals such as using public transportation, money management, social skills, attendant management, nutrition and self-advocacy.

**Information and Referral** provides

information about disability issues and referral to other agencies, which provide services to people with disabilities. This is available to the public and to consumers.

**Peer Support Services** support people as they deal with emotional aspects of their disabilities in group and individual settings.

**Systems Change Advocacy** strives to change policies to make government, transportation and housing systems more accessible to people with disabilities.

**Transition** includes reintegration of individuals from nursing homes back into their community, as well as transition for youth from school to post-secondary education or employment.

Other services include:

- Accessibility Audits
- Equipment Loan Program
- Systems Change Advocacy
- Personal Assistant Program
- Community Reintegration
- Amplified Phone Program
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocate
- Youth Services Program
- Ramp Program



## Advocates for Access

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## Mission

Empowering people with disabilities to live independently in our community.

## Vision

The center for advocacy, information, referral and services for people with disabilities by people with disabilities.

## Independent Living Philosophy

Independent living is the right of people with disabilities to control and direct their own lives, to have choices and options and to actively participate in all aspects of society.

## Signature Events

### Ramp Build

June 23, 2018

15 ramps in one day to offer accessibility to individuals within our community!

### Wheel-a-Thon

April 2019

## How to Help

Contact Jeannine McAllister at (309) 682-3500 for additional information or to get involved with Advocates for Access.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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