|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FY 2023** | |
| **P&A** | **PAVA Narratives** |
| AR | DRA did not work any cases funded with PAVA in FY2023; however, DRA did work a case about an individual not having the right to vote due to having a guardian. We were able to successfully resolve this issue for our client; however, because it involved filing with the court to obtain a resolution (legal action), we worked it under another grant. DRA also worked three guardianship cases; because we obtained favorable results for our clients, their right to vote was retained or restored. These cases were not funded by PAVA because the primary problem area was guardianship, and the right to vote was a successful by-product of the successful resolution to the guardianship issue. |
| AZ | The Arizona Center for Disability Law’s (ACDL) Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) Program works to ensure that Arizonans with disabilities have an opportunity to cast a private and independent vote, and have full access to the electoral process in registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. ACDL has developed collaborative, educational, enforcement, and best practice-based strategies to achieve our goal of ensuring full access to the electoral process for all Arizonans with disabilities. During Fiscal Year 2023, ACDL’s PAVA activities focused on the following on behalf of Arizonans with disabilities: (1) increasing voter registration, (2) increasing voter participation, (3) increasing voter education opportunities, (4) working with election officials to address the electoral needs of Arizonans with disabilities, and (5) protecting the rights of Arizonans with disabilities to ensure full access to the electoral process.   ACDL is part of the Arizona Disability Voter Coalition (AzDVC), which is a statewide partnership of individuals, stakeholders, and organizations that work together to improve access to the electoral process for Arizonans with disabilities. The following are organizational members of AzDVC: ACDL, Citizens Clean Elections Commission, The Arc of Arizona, Southern Arizona Association for the Visual Impaired, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, Arizona Brain Injury Alliance, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities, Assist To Independence (Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation), DIRECT Advocacy & Resource Center, People First of Arizona, Inclusive Empowerment Network, Native American Disability Law Center, Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities and Services Maximizing Independent Living and Empowerment Center. AzDVC has incorporated the five areas of focus outlined above and works in collaboration with ACDL on achieving these shared goals related to voter access for Arizonans with disabilities. Further details concerning these activities are included below.      ACDL Collaborates with Community Partners to Increase Voter Registration of People with Disabilities   ACDL and our AzDVC partners met on October 2, 2022 to coordinate our efforts and activities in preparation for the 2022 Arizona General Election. The meeting provided participants with an update on Arizona’s new elections laws and ways to enhance their voting experience and voting options.   ACDL also collaborated with several disability organizations that are part of AzDVC to conduct voter rights trainings and voter registration drive activities for Arizonans with disabilities in FY 2023. During our efforts, we identified barriers that significantly impacted this project; the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant negative impact on in-person voter registration. In-person voter registration activities have historically been the most effective way to reach out to potential voters with disabilities to increase registration. In our efforts to continue our voter registration activities in a safe and secure manner, on February 18, 2022, ACDL applied for and was awarded a Unique URL link from the Arizona Secretary of State to conduct virtual voter registration activities. Under the Unique URL project, ACDL was given the authority to assign the Unique URL link to other nonprofit disability organizations to conduct nonpartisan voter registration activities. ACDL shared the Unique URL link with several organizations that are part of AzDVC to help amplify virtual voter registration efforts within Arizona and increase voter registration among people with disabilities. The Unique project operated from February 2022 through November 2022.   ACDL and AzDVC coalition partners also conducted several voter registration activities on National Voter Registration Day and during Disability Voting Rights Week in FY23. Among the activities conducted included a voting rights training by an ACDL attorney that included an overview of Arizona’s new voting-related laws and provided participants with best practice strategies for people with disabilities to ensure access to the electoral process. In addition, ACDL and our AzDVC partners utilized various media platforms to disseminate voter education and voter registration information statewide to the disability community. Other organizations participating in disability voter registration activities included the All Voting is Local, the Arizona League of Women Voter. Maricopa County Recorder’s office and the Pima County Recorder’s office    ACDL Works to Identify Barriers and Increase Voter Participation Among Voters with Disabilities in Arizona    In FY 2023, ACDL collaborated with our AzDVC partners to identify barriers that impact the ability of a person with a disability to cast a private and independent vote in Arizona. Among the barriers identified were voter identification requirements and the need for various reasonable accommodations in the voting process to ensure full and equitable access.   The lack of valid identification in order to register to vote prevents otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities from being able to engage in the democratic process. In our efforts to address this issue, ACDL and AzDVC partnered with VoteRiders, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure that no eligible voter is prevented from casting a ballot due to voter identification laws. VoteRiders provides free services to assist the person in obtaining the necessary identification and documents to register to vote. In FY 2023, ACDL and AzDVC conducted a state-wide media campaign to inform the disability community of the services provided by VoteRiders, to provide a resource to help overcome this identified barrier.   The ability to vote under limited guardianship and persons with disabilities living in group home settings were identified as barriers that impacted the capacity to cast a private and independent vote.   As in previous years, in FY 2023 ACDL also reached out to various state agencies and disability service provider agencies in Arizona to inform them of their responsibilities to provide reasonable accommodations if needed, to ensure access to voting for Arizonans with disabilities. These accommodations may include assisting the person to update their voter registration, providing accessible transportation to the polls, and more. In addition, information was provided to these organizations on the use of the Special Elections Boards (Board) to assist voters who were unable to vote in person due to medical reasons. Two members from the Board would come to their home or place of choice to assist the individual in casting their vote.      ACDL Conducts Trainings and Works to Increase Voter Education Opportunities for Arizonans with Disabilities   In ACDL's efforts to provide statewide voting rights trainings in English and in Spanish to Arizonans with disabilities, we worked in collaboration with several disability organizations to conduct eighteen voting rights trainings in person and virtually in FY2023. The trainings were attended by 386 individuals from various locations throughout the state. The trainings and curriculums were designed and implemented to meet the needs of various disability stakeholder groups, including for example, trainings specifically designed for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Some of the organizations ACDL partnered with to provide voter rights trainings included: Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, Inclusive Empowerment Network, DiverseAbility Incorporated, Youth Leadership Forum of Arizona, and Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, All Voting is Local, Arizona State University Ed Pastor Center for Politics, and Public Services, and Ability360.   Each of the eighteen trainings ACDL conducted during FY 2023 provided a basic overview of voting rights and detailed information on voting options and requesting accommodations to access polling locations. The training included information on casting a ballot at home, in the hospital or a location that is convenient for the voter through Special Election Boards. Special Election Boards are administrated by each County Recorder’s Office and are made up of two members from differing political parties who travel to the location of a voter who is otherwise unable to access the polls, and are trained to assist the voter to cast their ballot in a secure, confidential, and accessible manner. American Sign Language interpreting and captioning were provided during all trainings.   ACDL Works with Election Officials and the Governor’s Office to Address the Electoral Needs of Arizonans with Disabilities   ACDL and our Disability Voter Coalition (AzDVC) partners worked hard to build a working relationship with Arizona election officials at every level in the state. We have established a positive working relationship with the Arizona Governor’s Office, Arizona Secretary of State’s office, Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, and the majority of the fifteen County Recorders and Elections Departments throughout the state. Below is a summary of some of the activities ACDL conducted in FY 2023 to further its work in this area.   On March 8, 2023, Arizona Governor, Katie Hobbs appointed Renaldo Fowler, Senior Staff Advocate, to her newly created Bipartisan Election Task Force. The Governor’s Bipartisan Elections Task Force consists of experts across Arizona’s elections community who represent political and geographic backgrounds from across Arizona. The goal of the Task Force was to review Arizona’s Electoral system and upon completion of its work, the Task Force will provide the Governor with recommendations on improving Arizona’s Electoral process. ACDL participation on the Task Force, was to ensure that voters and potential voters with disabilities needs were being address at the state level. Upon completion of the Task Force work, several recommendations were forward to the Governor to improve the voting experience for Arizonans. The most significant recommendation created by the Task Force that would impact persons with disabilities, is the creation of a Disability Resource Liaison. This proposal recommended that the Disability Resource Liaison position be within the Secretary of State’s Office, have expertise and knowledge in various disability accommodations and resources. This person would provide technical assistance and help create resources on accessible voting materials, accessible voter websites, and accessible voting locations and procedures. This role would help create specific disability resources, including best practices and training information on disability etiquette. The creation of the Disability Resource Liaison was supported unanimously by all Task Force members.   On March 3, 2023, The Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission established a Candidate Debate Work Group and requested ACDL participation on the work group. The Citizens Clean Elections Commission is a non-partisan commission created by voters that educates, voters, and provides campaign funding and enforces campaign finance rules and laws. Clean Elections has administered fair and effective debates for federal, state and legislative candidates for more than 20 years. The task of the work group was to examine the current processes and propose and discuss opportunities for updates and improvements. ACDL role on the Work Group was to ensure that issues that are important to persons with disabilities are embedded within this process.      On September 5, 2023, Arizona Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes appointed Renaldo Fowler, Senior Staff to his Voter Engagement Advisory Board. The nonpartisan Board’s goal is to improve and expand voter register opportunities for all Arizonans. ACDL’s role is to educate and to ensure that Arizona Voters with Disabilities needs are addressed and incorporated into the work of the Board.     During the fiscal year, ACDL and our AzDVC partners held meetings to discuss, develop, and implement projects to improve access to the electoral process for Arizonans with disabilities. Most of these meetings were attended by elections officials from the Secretary of State’s Office, Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, and County Recorders Offices and Elections Departments. These meetings provided the disability community and election officials with an opportunity to engage directly with each other to discuss and resolve issues regarding access to the electoral process for voters with disabilities. Some of the key issues discussed during the meetings included: maintaining and expanding access to voting; poll worker training and disability etiquette; creating and expanding voter education opportunities, including considerations for plain language materials and information; meeting the electoral needs of persons with disabilities living in group homes or other specialized settings; improving voter register opportunities; accessible voting equipment; and ensuring accessible polling locations.     ACDL continues to education and collaborate with Arizona’s election officials and voter engagement organizations in developing and implementing effective communication protocols to ensure full access to the electoral process for Arizonans with disabilities. The disability community has frequently identified the lack of disability etiquette at polling locations, ineffective communication, and a general misunderstanding on how to meet the electoral needs of Arizonans with disabilities as issues that require continued work. |
| DC | \*Priority 1\*  During FY23, DRDC represented twelve (12) individual DC residents with disabilities under priority #1, including seven (7) individuals who we continued to represent in FY24. Our representation focused on advocating for people with disabilities to obtain properly fitted wheelchairs, other durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology that maximizes their independence through the DC Medicaid Program and other DC government programs. Of the five (5) individual cases DRDC closed in FY23 under priority #1, DRDC's advocacy work on behalf of individual Medicaid beneficiaries successfully secured access to medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) and other assistive technology devices and services, resulting in community integration and independence, effective communication, and healthier, safer or otherwise improved environments. One of these individual clients needed DME repairs to go to school and another client needed DME repairs to maintain employment. Both clients were able to stay in school and remain employed as a result of DRDC's advocacy to advocate for wheelchair repairs. DRDC achieved these end outcomes by: (1) removing barriers and helping clients navigate the bureaucratic steps to getting Medicaid authorization for needed assistive technology, (2) addressing rights violations and neglect by the staff charged to ensure access to DME, including staff at a local jail and nursing facility social worker staff, and (3) providing self-advocacy services to ensure a returning citizen understood the steps to obtain Medicaid authorization for DME upon his return to the community. Some of those cases are described below.   DRDC successfully represented a 33-year-old woman with an orthopedic impairment to obtain repairs on her motorized wheelchair under DC Medicaid. Several months after DRDC successfully advocated for repairs in FY22, the client’s wheelchair required additional repairs. DRDC successfully worked with her doctor and vendor to remedy a six-month delay to complete the proper documentation regarding her need for repairs. DRDC also advocated with the vendor to request temporary fixes to the client’s chair until a repair authorization could be approved and completed. As a result of DRDC’s advocacy, the client immediately received temporary fixes to enable her to continue the use of her wheelchair for employment and her activities of daily living until the vendor installed the parts to repair the client’s wheelchair.  DRDC represented a 61-year-old woman with orthopedic impairments that severely limit her movement. She was using a manual wheelchair because her three-year-old motorized wheelchair had a dead battery and her case manager had failed to submit any repair request paperwork to the client’s vendor. DRDC addressed this neglect with the case management agency administrator, who reassigned the client to a new case manager. Because the client’s existing chair has been discontinued, the new case manager worked with a new vendor to get Medicaid approval, order, and deliver a new motorized chair. As a result of this successful advocacy, the client now has a brand-new motorized wheelchair that meets her needs.  Under DRDC’s Jail and Prison Advocacy Program, DRDC represented incarcerated District residents with mobility disabilities to enforce their right to durable medical equipment while incarcerated. For example, DRDC assisted an individual incarcerated within the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) who required access to a wheelchair and other assistive devices to perform daily tasks. After an altercation where the client briefly stood up, he was denied further access to a wheelchair and was moved to an inaccessible unit that required him to use stairs and denied him meaningful access to a shower. DRDC contacted the Medical Director of DOC and the Medical Director of Corrections for the contracted organization that provides medical care in DOC to advocate for the client to return to a physically accessible unit and to give the client the use of a wheelchair. He has used a wheelchair for more than a decade while incarcerated after the amputation of his foot and the onset of other health conditions that impacted his mobility. The Directors denied DRDC’s repeated requests. Over email, DRDC escalated the requests to DOC’s Office of General Counsel, the Deputy Directors, and the Director of DOC. DRDC sent many emails explaining DOC’s legal obligations under the ADA and that denial of accommodations could not be used as a form of discipline. After an in-person meeting with the Director and his deputies, the client was returned to his previous unit and given a wheelchair.  DRDC also continued to challenge the District’s improper termination of Medicaid home health services which threatened the loss of the requisite level of care to sustain Medicaid benefits coverage for some beneficiaries. This loss of Medicaid eligibility, in turn, threatened to jeopardize beneficiaries’ access to durable medical equipment and assistive technology under DC Medicaid’s 1915(c) Waiver for the Elderly and People with Physical Disabilities (EPD) and through the Medicaid State Plan benefit. Medicaid EPD Waiver beneficiaries can access the assistive technology of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services as well as Personal Emergency Response Services under the Medicaid State Plan. To help ensure these beneficiaries will not lose access to this assistive technology, DRDC is engaging in systemic advocacy to challenge the District’s policy and practices of improperly terminating Medicaid services for many eligible Medicaid beneficiaries who are receiving long-term care and other Medicaid services. After Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ending the Medicaid continuous enrollment requirement, the DC Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) restarted the process of renewing Medicaid eligibility on April 1, 2023.   In February 2023, DRDC sent a letter to DHCF requesting more information about its unwinding of the public health emergency (PHE) plan and educated DHCF about the elements of an accessible renewal and unwinding process, which is critical to help minimize the chance of wrongful Medicaid eligibility redetermination denials for individuals that remain eligible. As a result of DHCF’s administrative renewal procedures, people with disabilities have lower renewal rates than other Medicaid groups to date. For example, DHCF has a policy that long-term care or waiver beneficiaries, including individuals that receive EPD Waiver services, are not allowed to submit renewals on their own and must rely on a case manager to do so. However, DHCF has acknowledged that case managers are failing to submit renewals in a timely manner. DHCF has reported that approximately 1,600 Non-MAGI seniors and people with disabilities were procedurally terminated from Medicaid as of September 2023. Of those 1600, the result of case manager inaction, in part, is that almost 200 EPD waiver beneficiaries are losing Medicaid eligibility for procedural reasons to date.   In response in July 2023, DRDC sent another letter to DHCF regarding our serious concerns about the high rate of Medicaid beneficiaries that face procedural terminations, including long-term care beneficiaries who face termination because their case manager has failed to timely complete the renewal process. DRDC also testified twice in February 2023 and September 2023 before the DC Council’s Committee on Health urging the Committee to ensure that DHCF provide reasonable accommodations for these beneficiaries with disabilities to remedy this discrimination, including by extending Medicaid eligibility and monitoring the impact of the Medicaid Renewal Process on this population. At the request of the DC Council, DRDC provided a letter and met with the DC Council staff on the Committee of Health to educate them about DRDC’s policy priorities for the DC Department of Health Care Finance, including our priorities regarding the Medicaid renewal process.   As a result of DRDC’s systemic advocacy, DHCF agreed to extend Medicaid coverage by 30 days for those beneficiaries due for renewal that are at risk of termination due to a non-response. DHCF also modified its practices to monitor and track how many people with disabilities lose Medicaid coverage as a result of the Medicaid eligibility redetermination process, including tracking whether disability-based or associated eligibility categories are disparately impacted by procedural terminations (i.e., terminations because the beneficiary does not timely respond to a request for information). After DRDC’s urging, DHCF also sent a curative notice to approximately 1,000 EPD waiver beneficiaries to rescind improper Medicaid termination notices sent in error due to a system issue. Approximately 5,576 DC Medicaid long-term care beneficiaries who receive EPD waiver services’ access to Medicaid-funded DME and assistive technology services are affected by DRDC's advocacy. These DC Medicaid long-term care beneficiaries are predominantly African-American.  \*Priority 2\*  DRDC represented two (2) individuals with disabilities under priority #2. Our advocacy focused on advocating for full access for people with disabilities using assistive technology and other accommodations at polling places, governmental facilities, independent living, and public accommodations including at school and on public transportation. For the one individual case we closed in FY23 under this priority, DRDC's advocacy work on behalf of this individual successfully secured access to assistive technology devices, resulting in the enforcement of their rights, discriminatory practices in assistive technology access modified, and private places and services were made more accessible through access to assistive technology. This case and group advocacy are described below.   DRDC successfully represented a 48-year-old man with an orthopedic impairment and autism to file a complaint against Union Station and Amtrak for denying him access to use a commuter scooter due to his mobility disabilities. In the complaint, DRDC requested reasonable accommodations to remedy the station and Amtrak’s security’s unlawful denial of access to assistive technology when traveling at the station and on trains for people with disabilities, contrary to federal and local law and Union Station policy. This advocacy resulted in an agreement by Union Station and Amtrak to grant his reasonable accommodation request to use his scooter at Union Station and on the trains. Specifically, the agreement, in part, requires that all staff and Union Station and Amtrak police are trained on the accommodation agreement and are provided a photo of the client and his scooter, so that he is not further mistreated by Union Station and Amtrak staff and police. This is particularly important because the client is also an individual with Autism who is further at risk of harm when encountering the police.  In comprehensive comments covering nearly 800 pages of regulation changes to the public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs, DRDC responded to proposed DC Housing Authority (DCHA) regulations that harm people with disabilities in the District, including regarding their access to auxiliary aids and services. The regulations, which are currently in effect, make it harder for DCHA applicants and participants to access the assistive technology they need to have equal access to DCHA’s programs and services. For example, DRDC commented that DCHA must clarify in the regulations that video remote interpreting services will also be available to provide effective communication. The proposed regulations also indicate DCHA will rely on outdated and unreliable technology like TTY (text telephone). Accordingly, DRDC commented that DCHA should amend these regulations to clarify that it will provide access to real-time text (RTT) communication.  During FY23, DRDC presented to 378 people with disabilities under both priorities about resources to access assistive technology, their rights under DC Medicaid regarding durable medical equipment, and about DRDC’S PAAT program, resulting in these people with disabilities and 6 total individuals whose cases were closed in FY23 under both PAAT priorities to have their rights enforced, retained, restored and/or expanded.   For example, DRDC attended eight monthly meetings for Project Action, a large self advocacy group comprised of people with developmental disabilities. At these meetings, DRDC presented to Project Action members on the services we provide, including assisting people with disabilities address issues obtaining assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment. Approximately 50 people with disabilities attend these meetings. DRDC also presented to residents in nursing facilities, community residential facilities (CRFs), psychiatric facilities, public and private schools, public forums, the public library, day programs, and at a provider fair about the rights of individuals with disabilities to assistive technology. For example, DRDC continued its close working relationship with the DC Public Library system to provide a hybrid online and in-person training for individuals with disabilities and others on the right to assistive technology and resources for obtaining assistive technology from various sources including schools, DDA, DC Medicaid, DC RSA, and employers. DRDC trained 28 people with disabilities and staff at nursing facilities on assistive technology rights and resources in the nursing facility for people with disabilities like nurse call buttons through Medicaid.   DRDC presented to children and youth in various institutional and community settings about their rights to assistive technology. For example, DRDC trained youth at two Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services facilities multiple times to provide training and information to a total of 162 transition-age youth with disabilities incarcerated in these facilities to educate them on their rights to access needed assistive technology and durable medical equipment. DRDC presented to 35 parents of transition-age youth with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools on the services available from the DC Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). This presentation included the assistive technology available through the Home and Community-Based Waiver for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the assistive technology available through RSA, when necessary for people with disabilities to achieve their employment goal. The presentation also addressed options for appeal if DDA or RSA denies individuals the assistive technology they need. DRDC also conducted outreach and monitoring at the District’s two inpatient psychiatric facilities for children and youth, the Psychiatric Institute of Washington (PIW) and Children’s National Hospital. After being required to conduct outreach virtually for FY21 and FY22, due to COVID-19 visitation restrictions, DRDC was able to return to in-person outreach and monitoring at the start of FY23. DRDC presented to 67 youth on a variety of topics, including DRDC’s advocacy and assistive technology and how it can be a useful tool in school, on the job, or for activities of daily living.   DRDC widely distributed 309 flyers on assistive technology for DC residents with disabilities, which resulted in these individuals having their other rights enforced, retained, restored and/or expanded. These flyers inform people with disabilities about their right to access medical equipment and assistive technology in the community and in health care settings, types of equipment available, and the process for obtaining these services under both Medicaid and for transition age youth. The flyers also describe how people can contact DRDC if they encounter barriers. For example, at the DDS Provider Fair, hosted at the DC Convention Center, DRDC tabled and distributed approximately 40 fliers about the PAAT program and rights to assistive technology under DC Medicaid (a conference for District residents with disabilities providing information and resources for accessing District services and supports).  As outlined more fully above, DRDC continued its group advocacy via in-person surveys of (97%) or 87 out of the 90 District vote centers during the 2022 General Election. At each voting center surveyed, DRDC staff documented all structural and operational barriers and provided on-site recommendations to poll workers and the DC BOE staff to remove operational barriers, which included problems with the lack of assistive technology at electronic voting machines.  DRDC conveyed the survey findings on accessibility of vote centers and voting equipment for people with mobility, visual, and hearing disabilities by publishing its comprehensive written report in August 2023, describing accessibility issues across many vote centers that interfered with District voters with disabilities’ right to vote privately and independently and with assistive technology. In addition to the survey results for the November 2022 General Election reported above under PAVA priorities, 5 of the surveyed vote centers (6%) lacked audio headsets at voting machines for voters with visual disabilities as compared to 18% of surveyed voting centers that lacked audio headsets at voting machines during the 2022 Primary Election. As a result of DRDC’s on-the-spot recommendations, headsets and magnifying glasses were made available upon request at 12 vote centers, making the public vote centers more accessible. As described above, DRDC shared the comprehensive General Election report with its recommendations to remedy the voting accessibility issues with the DC Board of Elections, the DC Council, the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, the DC Consortium of legal services providers listserv, Restore the Vote Coalition, the public (via Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and website postings), and distributed it to visitors in our office.   DRDC’s advocacy and polling accessibility reports for full voter access and accessibility benefits. Approximately 70,230 adult DC residents have disabilities according to Census data, including the approximately 10,614 adult DC residents with developmental disabilities who were better able to participate fully in the electoral process due to DRDC's efforts to ensure access to assistive technology in the electoral process. Of course, this 10,614 is a significant under-count of the approximately 48,000 adult DC residents with ambulatory disabilities who could benefit from DRDC’s work to ensure access to assistive technology in the electoral process. The majority of our target population are minority populations by race and ethnicity. |
| DE | The DLP conducted significant outreach to encourage greater access to voting. Activities included:  Press releases on PAVA monitoring and public report (see discussion in "Engage in training and education of election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers regarding the rights of the voters with disabilities and best practices in working with individuals with disabilities" section of this PPR.  Social media:  - 10/14/22- announcing updates to election laws and links to Voter Guides - 10/13/22- announcing DLP’s Disability Voting Rights online presentation - 11/3/22- DLP Director’s blog post on increased accessibility for voters with disabilities  - 11/7/22- Know Your Rights graphics for voters with disabilities  - 11/4/22- announcing final days of Early Voting and link to Voter Guide - 11/4/22- announcing DLP’s monitoring for accessibility of polling places - 4/17/23- announcing Voter Guide for School Board Elections - 5/4/23- announcing results of DLP’s polling place accessibility monitoring - 5/8/23- link to interview with DLP Director on poll place monitoring results  - 7/26/23- link to blog post by DLP staff on intentionality to improve voter accessibility  - 9/11/23 thru 9/15/23- Disability Voting Rights Week, highlighting one right per day - 9/17/23- announcing National Voter Registration Day   Outreach:   DLP Director was interviewed by Delaware News Journal on results of polling place accessibility on May 8, 2023 (https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2023/05/08/delaware-polling-places-lack-ada-accessibility-disabilities-law-program/70187792007/).   On October 7, 2023, Delaware’s newly enacted election laws that established same-day registration and vote-by-mail were struck down as unconstitutional by the Delaware Supreme Court. This necessitated an important and urgent rush to update the online Voter Guides (https://www.aclu-de.org/sites/default/files/field\_documents/dvrc\_voter\_guide\_english-\_general\_election.pdf) to reflect the changes brought about by the court’s decision. DLP staff worked closely with the Delaware Voting Rights Coalition (DVRC) and its communications committee on this effort, and on distributing electronic copies to the network of agencies and individuals working with persons with disabilities, to help ensure they were well-informed and aware of the implications of the changes. |
| DE | DLP staff worked with individual cases of accessibility in the voting process and uncovered barriers in the electronic return of absentee ballots for voters with low vision or blindness. DLP alerted the Department of Elections to the issue, and in the interim, was successful in helping a client with visual impairment to receive her absentee ballot and successfully return it in time to the Department of Elections.   Presentations  DLP staff participated in the LIFE Conference, which was held on January 18 & 19, 2023 (virtually, due to elevated COVID risk). The DLP Director participated as the legal expert on the conference’s Sponsor Roundtable, answering attendees’ questions on the law and disability rights; other DLP staff served as facilitators for Q&A sessions.   DLP staff presented or tabled at numerous events and offered material and information on the PAVA program and voting rights.   DLP staff exhibited at the Transition to Adulthood fair on May 23, 2023. There were 125 attendees who received information on disability voting rights and all DLP programs.   DLP staff participated in a Town Hall, “Disability in the Black Community,” a virtual event hosted by the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice July 11, 2023, providing information on disability voting rights and changes to Delaware’s election laws. There were 30 people in attendance at the live event.  DLP Voting Rights Advocate wrote a blog post, “Let’s Get Intentional About Voter Accessibility,” (https://www.aclu-de.org/en/news/accessibility) on August 2, 2023.  DLP staff attended an in-person outreach event for “Disability History & Awareness Month,” on August 7, 2023, hosted by the Governor’s Advisory Council on Exceptional Citizens. DLP staff gave a brief presentation and provided information on the importance of the disability vote, increasing voter participation, voting rights, accessibility, where to find help, and how to contact the DLP with questions or concerns. There were 75 attendees.   DLP staff participated in a Community Health Fair put on by the YWCA on August 7, 2023. Approximately 200 people attended; staff distributed brochures and spoke with people about all the services CLASI offers, including the work we do in the PAVA program.  DLP staff exhibited at the Hispanic Parents Summit on October 7, 2023. Staff spoke to attendees about all DLP programs and services including the PAVA program. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. Staff distributed brochures and pamphlets containing information on voting rights and all other DLP programs.  DLP staff conducted a community education group at the Delaware Psychiatric Center (DPC) on October 18, 2022. Sixteen (16) clients attended, and all participants were given a DLP brochure, patients’ rights booklet, voting rights handout, and a sample ballot.  DLP staff gave a presentation and training on October 19, 2023, to University of Delaware students that DLP had recruited to monitor polling places. There were 37 students in attendance. |
| DE | - DLP issued a Press Release regarding DLP's monitoring of polling place accessibility on 11/04/2022: CLASI’s Disabilities Law Program, UD, and Delaware Law School Volunteers to Monitor Polling Place Accessibility on Election Day (http://www.declasi.org/clasis-disabilities-law-program-ud-and-delaware-law-school-volunteers-to-monitor-polling-place-accessibility-on-election-day/)  - DLP issued a Press Release regarding accessibility violations at Delaware’s polling places on 05/04/2023: New Report from CLASI Disabilities Law Program Finds Widespread ADA Accessibility Violations at Delaware’s Polling Places (http://www.declasi.org/clasi-disabilities-law-program-report-finds-widespread-accessibility-violations-at-delaware-polling-places/)  -DLP's PAVA Delaware General Election Accessibility Report – May 2023 can be found at http://www.declasi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2022-Delaware-General-Election-Accessibility-Report-05-04-2023RS.pdf |
| GU | GLSC-DLC developed social media outreach and posted information on our website on voter rights. We also provided posters and brochures with information about our PAVA program. Election officials disseminated the brochures that provided more information on our program, voting rights, and whom to contact should they have any issues while voting. Moreover, GLSC-DLC promoted early voting, homebound voting, and accessible voting on election day options for voters with disabilities, as well as the ExpressVote, a universal voting system for casting a ballot.   As with past elections, GLSC-DLC provided two (2) assistive technology toolkits to all 67 precincts to assist voters with disabilities in casting their votes. The toolkits included a description of all the low-tech devices available for voter use. In addition, toolkits were also provided at the early voting sites in the northern, central and southern villages, as well as the hotel venue selected for early voting. |
| HI | PAVA provided assistance to 99 individuals with disabilities with request to register to vote. |
| ID | PAVA attorneys and staff attended conferences with the Idaho Federation of the Blind and gave a presentation and collected stories of accessibility issues from blind or low-vision voters.  The PAVA attorney met with the Idaho Secretary of State to provide feedback on the last federal election, and other elections officials including Ada County elections director and County Clerks throughout Idaho who are responsible for running local election polling sites. The PAVA attorney also met with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to discuss the closure of the 2020 complaint regarding absentee voting problems. The DOJ decided to close the case, but said it was willing to continue to collect stories. |
| ID | The P&A PAVA attorney and staff worked throughout the year to address voting barriers for voters with disabilities and ensure full participation in the local process. It was important for DRI to conduct these activities to ensure the rights promised by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Help America Vote Act, and other applicable laws and to build consensus with stakeholders, the Department of Justice and elected officials to address voting barriers, build consensus for addressing those barriers, and build a PAVA program that works collaboratively with each party.  Stemming from the last federal election, the PAVA attorney attended webinars with REV-UP, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). The PAVA attorney also met with and shared other PAVA plans with other PAVA coordinators by attending NDRN open office meetings and meeting with individuals from other states. |
| ID | There were no cases accepted this fiscal year in PAVA. |
| ID | P&A PAVA attorney met with stakeholders at National Federation of the Blind Idaho (NFB-Idaho) and local living independent network and the Idaho League of Women voters to collaborate on a work plan to address absentee voter issues. The PAVA attorney identified sections of law that addressed absentee voting and identified paths for correction for the collaboration. The PAVA attorney also presented information at the annual NFB-Idaho conference and collected information regarding problems with accessibility at polls. The PAVA attorney later shared that information with the Department of Justice (DOJ) after the clients consented to such disclosure. The PAVA attorney also discussed the closure of the complaint with the DOJ but continues to work with the DOJ regarding the collection of stories and potential re-opening of the complaint. The PAVA attorney also researched electronic voting in other states and other implementation programs. The PAVA attorney furthered ideas for electronic voting by collaborating with stakeholders to garner more stories regarding difficulties voters with disabilities were having and meeting with both the Secretary of State and the election director in the largest county to discuss the potential of implementing such a program. These programs are ongoing. |
| IL | EFE has approached the Illinois State Board of Elections (“SBE”) leadership multiple times over past years to enter into a collaboration with us to ensure greater statewide accessibility of polling places. We designed an electronic ADA polling place survey app for this purpose, which is flexible enough to be used by any Illinois election district, and which can be used offline – without any live internet connection -- which is critical for use at widespread, urban and rural, polling places on Election Days. In addition to the use of this state-of-the-art app, we have offered intensive and multi-platform training for local election authorities, as well as updates to the SBE’s website reference materials for voters with disabilities.   Despite our attempts to establish this collaboration, in FY 21, the SBE declined to contract with EFE for ADA survey-related services, in favor of building an in-house SBE survey instrument. No such instrument appears to have been built, and SBE’s website, which historically provided polling place accessibility information (albeit incomplete and inaccurate) for each election authority, is now devoid of any information.  In FY22 and FY23 EFE has been unable to re-establish a relationship on this issue with the SBE because it was necessary for us to focus our efforts with the SBE on statewide improvements in accessible vote-by-mail systems for the federal 2022 elections. For the same reason – required focus on accessible vote-by-mail – EFE did not approach any local election authorities to create an ADA survey program (other than the City of Chicago Board of Elections, with which EFE has been working for several years; see PAVA Goal #1) in FY23. |
| IL | Between the summer of 2020 and FY 2023, EFE has been working with a group of disability rights and voting rights organizations to establish accessible vote-by-mail programs throughout the state of Illinois. Our efforts have brought the state from having vote-by-mail being offered only in hard copy – and thus entirely inaccessible to people who are blind, low vision, or who have other print disabilities – to currently having partial accessibility. Currently, election authorities are required by a 2022 state law to offer voters the ability to receive and mark their ballots electronically, but they must still print out and return ballots in hard copy. Also currently, the State Board of Elections facilitates this mandate by contracting with a vendor to create electronic ballots for local election authorities to use free of charge to allow their print-disabled constituents to vote with at least partial accessibility.  Since that achievement, EFE and our collaborating organizations have been working to research and confirm the security of allowing electronic return of completed ballots. Only with electronic return can we people with disabilities have full access, independence, and privacy throughout the voting process.  Note: any lobbying activities incidental to this goal and priorities were undertaken without the use of PAVA Funds. |
| IL | EFE only accomplished a small part of this initiative in FY23 – that of assisting 2 residents of McFarland (now named Packard) residential facility for people with mental illness with registering and voting by mail. (See above PAVA Goal 4, Inform and advocate for individual persons with disabilities throughout the State regarding their right to vote and procedures for registering and voting.) We ran short of PAVA funds for this work due to the unusual number of elections the occurred in FY23 and the unprecedented amount of preparation and survey work required for those uniquely complex post-pandemic, post-redistricting elections. EFE plans to further flesh out and implement this initiative in FY24. |
| KY | Kentucky Protection and Advocacy was contacted by State Board of Elections (SBE) General Counsel regarding the development of an SBE website. The website was going to launch a new tab with information regarding voting with disabilities. Prior to the launch of the website, SBE submitted a draft copy of all of the information the intend to share. This include how to request an absentee ballot, who qualifies for an absentee ballot in Kentucky, and who to contact if individuals had questions. The PAVA coordinator with Kentucky Protection and Advocacy, as well as two of the attorneys with Kentucky Protection and Advocacy reviewed the information provided for accuracy of the information. Kentucky Protection and Advocacy then responded to SBE with our approval and support. |
| MD | PAVA Staff along with volunteers from the Everyone Votes Coalition engaged in voter outreach at Maryland State Psychiatric Hospital, Spring Grove, on October 11, and successful registered 96 people and assisted residents requested 102 mail in ballots throughout the hospital. The majority of residents at Maryland State Psychiatric Hospital are currently being held in relation to involvement with the criminal legal system, and the majority of residents are black and/or African American. |
| MD | PAVA Staff participated in the planning committee for a Voter’s Forum hosted by the Maryland Disabilities Forum on October 5, 2022, to present questions and issues for Maryland's gubernatorial candidates to respond to. The Forum was posted online and received approximately 1045 views and streams. |
| MD | PAVA Staff partnered with Life After Release, a formerly incarcerated women led organization focused on assisting formerly incarcerated women upon release and navigating life post-conviction. Our voter registration collaboration focused on areas where formerly incarcerated women may encounter such as state benefit offices. |
| MD | PAVA staff attended a Resource Fair hosted by DRM on the Eastern Shore and provided information on voter registration and planning for voting. |
| MD | PAVA Staff partnered with People Power of Maryland to register individuals with disabilities to vote. |
| MD | PAVA staff co-hosted a seminar on voting rights for persons with disabilities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. |
| MD | PAVA Staff partnered with members of the Everyone Votes Coalition this program year to educate members of the barriers facing people with disabilities in voting, this included recruiting members of the Coalition to review accessibility of drop-box locations, assisting in registration of voters in state psychiatric hospitals, and partnering with other voter rights agencies in their outreach efforts. |
| MD | PAVA Staff met bi-weekly with staff from the State Board of Elections to raise and address any potential issues that would create barriers to voting for persons with disabilities. The sessions have been helpful in proactively addressing issues that may arise to ensuring an accessible voting system. |
| MD | PAVA Staff operated DRM's Voter Hotline and E-mail and also provided technical assistance to the Voter Hotline operated by the Everyone Voters Coalition. Through these Services PAVA Staff fielded 16 calls from voters and provided feedback in real time to the local and state board of elections. |
| MD | PAVA Staff prepared material for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to Share with local Ombudsman office to better inform residents of their voting rights while residing in long-term care facilities. |
| MD | PAVA Staff provided comments to the State Board of Elections (SBE) Administrative Complaint process to advocate for increased accessibility of SBE's Administrative Complaint Process. These comments included i) having the complaint form be available in multiple languages; ii) the option to complete submit the complaint form electronically; and iii) the option to have any hearings on complaints conducted electronically. SBE accepted these recommendations from PAVA staff. |
| MI | In FY23, DRM focused on maximizing the impact of PAVA funding through collaborative and interdisciplinary outreach, education, and self-advocacy assistance. This strategy not only serves DRM clients directly, but also works to empower voters with disabilities, their communities, voting advocates, and disability service providers to advocate for more accessible voting at all stages of the process. Voters with disabilities experience inaccessible polling places, untrained election workers and unprepared Voter Assist Terminals (VAT), and the same pervasive stigma and lack of inclusion our constituents experience across many settings. Michigan’s election system is highly decentralized, administered at the municipal level, and problems are often specific to localities, requiring direct outreach. DRM is working with a diverse range of public and private partners to promote election worker education and polling place preparedness. DRM’s goals are to provide accurate and up to date information through outreach, trainings, consultation, and media development, so voters with disabilities, the people supporting them, and elections officials and administrators understand and uphold the rights and needs of Michigan’s diverse population of voters with disabilities. In this fiscal year, DRM especially worked to develop and expand coalitions of disability advocates and voting advocates, and further connect these communities.   DRM engaged in outreach and consultation for local and state level elections officials across multiple projects in FY23.   State Level Elections Officials: In FY23, DRM worked to strengthen collaboration with Michigan Department of State (MDOS). In addition to collaborative outreach events with the Bureau of Elections (BOE), DRM was invited to meet with MDOS staff to discuss voting accessibility concerns and upcoming MDOS Election Policy Working Group. DRM has also renewed collaborative efforts to improve MDOS VAT training materials and provided consultations on media accessibility and training materials. MDOS has also expressed interest in promoting DRM’s Voters with Disabilities Storytelling project, in which a diverse range of Michigan voters with disabilities tell stories about voting and promote self-advocacy and voter empowerment, as well as drawing attention to barriers faced by voters with disabilities.   Local Elections Officials: DRM attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) annual conference in FY23 to promote DRM as a voting accessibility and training resource. DRM shared training and outreach materials with 364 local elections officials from across Michigan.  Key collaborative projects with local elections officials were providing polling place accessibility consultations and election worker training and recruitment support. State-level partner MDOS BOE refers local elections officials to DRM for consultations on polling place accessibility and ADA audits.   Polling Place Accessibility: In FY23, DRM received requests for accessibility consultation or assessment from three municipalities: City of Lansing, City of Battle Creek, and Harrison Township. In total, DRM polling place accessibility consultations helped to ensure accessibility for 25,746 voters with disabilities.  DRM assisted Lansing in assessing 4 polling locations that serve 8 precincts. Based on DRM’s consultation, changes were made to layout and entrances/exits, improving accessibility for an estimated 2,267 Lansing voters with disabilities.  Battle Creek and Harrison Township solicited feedback on the accessibility prospective early voting locations. Because these early voting locations will be available to all voters in these municipalities, DRM’s feedback helped to ensure accessibility for an estimated 23,479 Battle Creek and Harrison Township voters with disabilities.   In FY23, DRM’s accessibility activities have been limited to those requested. However, DRM hopes to collaborate with Disability Network/Michigan (Michigan’s network of Centers for Independent Living), Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council, and Detroit Disability Power to implement a statewide election day accessibility auditing project in coming years.  Election Worker Training and Recruitment:  In FY23, DRM worked to complete the election worker training video project, started in FY22. The training video featured a diverse group of voters with disabilities from across Michigan, speaking about their own experiences voting and best practice for election workers assisting voters with disabilities. The video was completed in FY23 Q3 and published to DRM’s YouTube channel. This video was also shared with project partner City Clerk of Lansing, as well as MDOS. MDOS has added the video to their training library and promoted it to local elections officials. This video was also sent via email to all MAMC attendees, reaching the 364 local elections officials that attended the conference. |
| MI | In FY23, DRM grew and strengthened coalitions that support the rights of voters with disabilities. These coalitions have helped to develop targeted outreach opportunities and collaborative educational projects, as well as maximizing impact of policy advocacy.   DRM partners with Promote the Vote (PTV), a diverse, non-partisan voting advocacy organization working to preserve, enhance, and protect voting rights for all Michigan voters. In FY23, collaboration with PTV had three primary focus areas: accessibility consultations; policy consultations; and a collaborative project to develop accessible, multimedia revisions of PTV’s Know Your Rights voting guide. This guide is disseminated by PTV partners across the state and has significant reach and recognition but needs revisions to be accessible to various disability needs including low literacy and intellectually disabled voters. This project is ongoing and was further delayed by major changes in state election policy pending finalization.   Number served: 18,580, number of individuals who visited the Promote the Vote website in FY23 (17,958), PTV Facebook followers (164), and Instagram followers (458).  In FY23 DRM consulted with PTV providing insights on inclusive practices, including media accessibility. This service was originally funded by a FY22 grant from PTV, but DRM continued to provide consultations at no cost in FY23, for the benefit of Michigan’s estimated 1,000,000 voters with disabilities. DRM also provided consultations to PTV policy advisors on potential impact of proposed election policy on voters with disabilities.  FY23 saw continuing work on the Know Your Rights guide project, for which PTV is contributing $30,000 of the total $45,000 costs, with the remainder funded by DRM PAVA funds. FY23 activities included a stakeholder planning meeting to include organizations serving a range of marginalized communities, including: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition; Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council; Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute; Detroit Disability Power; Michigan Department of Civil Rights Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing; Southwest Detroit Community Development Corporation (Latino/Spanish speakers/immigrant voters); APIA Vote Michigan (Asian and Pacific Islander/Arabic speakers/immigrant voters), and; Voting Access for All (pre-adjudicated and returning criminal justice involved voters). DRM and PTV have worked with vendor, Kingsley-Kleimann, to develop and review draft materials and provide updates on policy changes. This project has been delayed by significant and ongoing election policy changes in FY23 and will continue into FY24.   DRM also leads the Voting with Disabilities in Michigan (VDM) coalition, which helps to develop and advise on projects such as the election worker training video, voter storytelling videos, and Know Your Rights Guide. VDM partners also provide outreach opportunities and support for events such as the Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally, Brain Injury Association of Michigan’s annual conference, and DRM’s Disability Accessibility Day at Jackson Field. VDM also reviews election policy and other developing issues that may impact our constituents. Working collaboratively allows DRM to reach a more diverse range of voters with disabilities with a broader range of educational opportunities and build advocacy power. VDM partners include: Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections; Michigan DD Council; Self-Advocates of Michigan; Michigan Disability Rights Coalition; Michigan Statewide Independent Living Council; Brain Injury Association of Michigan; National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, and; Detroit Disability Power. DRM is always working to expand this coalition to reflect the diversity of Michigan’s voters with disabilities, promote intersectional approaches to advocacy, and build connections between historically siloed disability communities. DRM aspires to establish VDM as the leading collective voice for voters with disabilities in Michigan, across geography, identities, and disabilities.   The ACLU reports that more than 400 anti-voter bills have been introduced in recent years. "Suppression efforts range from the seemingly unobstructive, like strict voter ID laws and cuts to early voting, to mass purges of voter rolls and systemic disenfranchisement. These measures disproportionately impact people of color, students, the elderly, and people with disabilities." |
| MN | In FY2023 MDLC completed fourteen monitoring visits through in-person means. MDLC did not limit its monitoring activity in FY 2023 to any one type of facility or service. Instead, the facilities visited covered residential and day programs that varied in size and were located across the state. These facilities included a variety of residential facilities that serve adults and children. No health, safety or rights issues were noted. PADD staff will continue to monitor such facilities in FY 2024 and provide both individual and systems advocacy on these issues.  For MDLC’s PAVA polling place monitoring activities in FY 2023, we conducted polling place surveys of 129 separate locations during Minnesota’s November 8, 2022, general election. These polling place visits resulted in many areas of accessibility concern that we, according to our protocol, informed the Secretary of State. We estimate that those areas of concern could negatively impact over 8,900 voters with disabilities. We calculated this number by multiplying the number of polling place visits by the average number of eligible voters in the precincts (1500) and then multiplying that number by the estimated percentage of registered voters with disabilities (23%) and finally multiplying that number by 20% to account for those voters with disabilities who are blind, deaf or have physical impairments and therefore who may need assistance need assistance at the polling place. As in the past, DLC trains volunteers to help us to conduct monitoring visits.   We list a total of 86 visits (66 monitoring and 129 polling place). |
| MN | MDLC conducted 71 total training/presentation and outreach events for our PADD, PAAT, PATBI and PAVA work, reaching approximately 9,100 individuals. We are back to having the majority of these events/presentations in person. We continued to focus on underserved or unserved populations in the determination of the location of these events and participated in 17 events with this focus.   We note that MDLC staff members provided materials and information for multiple areas of our services at the same outreach event so the number of people we reached listed above overlaps significantly. For example, during some outreach or exhibitions, MDLC staff provided materials and information about our PAVA work and our PATBI work. The individuals we reached are included in both the summaries for PAVA and PATBI. We commonly bring information about the broad range of MDLC services to these events. However, there are times where we do specific events for only one or two grants (e.g. only PAVA or only PATBI and PAVA).  MDLC assigned two outreach specialists to reach diverse and underserved groups. Some of the outreach opportunities we had in FY2023 included the Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN), the Southern Metro Muslim Leadership Summit, the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, the Somali Diaspora Conference, the Somali Parents Autism Network, and the Muslim American Society. |
| MO | See PAVA Report |
| MO | Mo P&A has historically provided PATBI, PAAT, and PAVA individual advocacy, legal, and investigation services on a first-come first-served basis. The PADD program has an established annual Statement of Goals and Priorities designating the focus of PADD casework-related services.  A comprehensive PADD Statement of Goals & Priorities document is distributed via 8½ x 11 inch paper, accompanied by a one-page questionnaire, and a prepaid business reply envelope. In FY 2023 Mo P&A also used a website-based electronic questionnaire to solicit additional public comment. The information is presented annually to the Board of Directors for data driven analytical consideration for addressing any potential changes to the PADD SGP.   Mo P&A practices provide for the publication of the proposed PADD Statement of Goals and Objectives (SGO) and distribution of the proposed PADD SGO. Mo P&A publishes the SGO on its website with a survey to solicit electronic input from the public. A banner directs the public to review and provide input when first visiting the website and this allows individuals to directly and continuously submit comments via the website and receive acknowledgement of their comments. Additionally, Mo P&A solicits input from other interested persons, service providers, and individuals with which Mo P&A staff come into contact via various outreach events, conferences, presentations, and through service on advisory groups, councils and committees. Mo P&A procedures allow individuals to provide comment at any time in person and/or in writing to the main office building. Mo P&A's practice is to provide mailed surveys to individuals served during past three program years. Website survey: https://form.jotform.com/231036959844061 |
| ND | P&A’s policy requires the agency complete a priority setting process to guide agency operations and programming. During FY 2023, P&A initiated its annual priority setting process for FY 2024, which included solicitation of client feedback, research and data collection on disability-related issues, and internal and external stakeholder input. The modes of information collection included electronic surveys (public comment), print surveys mailed via USPS (client input), two virtual townhall meetings (focus groups), and dialogue with staff, the advisory council, and governing board (experience).  P&A accepted public comments on FY 2024 priorities from May 19 – June 18, 2023. Public comment information was shared via a news release, website, mailing, listserv, board meetings, and advisory council meetings.   During the former priority setting period (FY 2023) 160 surveys were sent to clients with an overall response rate of 13%. In an effort, to gather more feedback this year, P&A widened client survey criteria. All active advocacy cases (closed and opened) for the period of June 1, 2022 – May 15, 2023 that agreed to be surveyed at intake were asked to complete a survey. A total of 394 surveys were sent to clients for all P&A programs with an overall response rate of 13%. Specific to ACL programs P&A had the following results: • PADD: 191 surveys mailed; 19 returned; participation rate 10%. • PATBI: 7 surveys mailed; 4 returned; participation rate 57%. • PAAT: 13 surveys mailed; 2 returned; participation rate 15%. • PAVA & PHWF: 0 surveys, non-case services.  P&A hosted a public-facing online survey to collect feedback from advocacy organizations, service providers, people with disabilities, family members, guardians, collaborative partners, advisory council members, board members, State Council on Developmental Disabilities staff and board members, and the University Center for Excellence staff and board members. The survey was posted on P&A’s website and emailed to P&A’s listserv of 452 individuals. A total of 26 online surveys were submitted.   P&A held two virtual townhalls on May 23, 2023 and May 31, 2023 to gather qualitative feedback. Townhall meetings provided a brief overview on P&A services and current priorities, and then moved to questions and dialogue on disability-issues facing North Dakotans. Twelve individuals attended these events.   In addition to public comment activities, information and data from P&A’s centralized intake and regional offices, advisory council, and board play an important role in selecting priority areas. This includes assessing requests for information & referral, emerging areas of concern related to client case work, and other trending areas in training, collaboration, and systems change.   Each of these efforts is an integral part of the strategic planning and priority setting process used by P&A. Feedback and information were reviewed in detail by P&A staff and formal planning was completed to ensure the priority setting process was in sync with the needs of people with disabilities in North Dakota. |
| NY | DRNY’s PAVA and CAP programs came together to host a series of presentations to NYS’s public university system, SUNY/CUNY. We worked directly with students and the Student Disabilities Services Offices to share information about DRNY’s services, and available resources for students with disabilities. DRNY hosted eight virtual trainings and connected with almost 50 SUNY/CUNY students with disabilities. 1. Nassau Community College (2/13/23 ) 4 attendees 2. SUNY Corning (2/21/23) 4 attendees  3. SUNY Dutchess (2/24/23 ) 6 attendees 4. SUNY Fulton Montgomery Community College (2/28/23) 4 attendees 5. CUNY Staten Island (3/23/23 ) 10 attendees 6. CUNY Bronx (4/13/23 ) 11 attendees 7. CUNY Lehman (4/21/23) 8 attendees |
| NY | We sought input from voters across NYS on their voting experience. We collected information that helps PAVA understand the relevant issues that voters with disabilities face in NYS.   We used the data from our Surveys to ensure our advocacy is relevant and tailored to the needs of the voters we serve. We also reported some of the survey responses into our 2022 Early Voting Poll Site Inaccessibility report co-authored with the Brennan Center, found here: https://www.drny.org/page/news--press-3/news/joint-report-by-the-brennan-center-for-justice-and-disability-rights-new-york-finds-rampant-violations-of-accessibility-standards-for-voters-with-disabilities-at-early-voting-polling-places-in-new-york-state-10.html |
| OH | 1. (PAAT, PADD, PATBI, PAVA) DRO collaborated with stakeholders to establish the Accessibility Committee and hosted the workgroup. This group established a one-page document for policymakers and state agencies to use to make virtual meetings fully accessible for disabled Ohioans. Further, DRO collaborated with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to ensure their trainings, meetings, and any other event hosted by the department were fully accessible. Finally, DRO collaborated with legislative offices to ensure committee hearings, meetings, and the legislative process were accessible for disabled Ohioans.   2. (PAAT, PADD, PATBI) Members of Leadership team attended 2023 Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence (MACC, Inc.) Annual Conference “From Advocacy to Activism” and participated in sessions that focus on workshops to enhance understanding and skills related to intersectionality, cultural humility, and culturally responsive leadership to enhance rights education, protection, and advocacy when working with individuals with disabilities and mentoring agency staff.  3. (PAAT, PADD, PATBI, PAVA) DRO coordinated with disabled advocates, partner organizations, and policy makers throughout the state biennial budget to advocate for increased wages for direct care worker wages. HB 33 ended up being passed with one of the largest increases in the HCBS system with an emphasis on increasing wages for direct care workers.  4. (PADD, ACL-PHWF) DRO collaborated with several disability-led advocacy groups and helped support the creation of additional advocacy groups over the past year to advocate for higher wages for direct care workers. This work was accomplished by bringing together all advocates across the state and building out skills for new advocates to be strong effective advocates throughout the state biennial budget. DRO collaborated with organizations across disability and identity to ensure advocacy was taking an intersectional approach. |
| OH | 1. (PADD, PATBI, PAAT) In FY23, we had regular meetings with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (“ODRC”), where we advocated for increased mental health services, better constant watch conditions, and other changes to ODRC’s facilities, policies, and procedures that would benefit people in carceral settings who are experiencing suicidal ideations or other mental health concerns. We also addressed specific cases as they arose, working with individuals and ODRC to address those individual’s need for mental health services, placement in a different facility, or other potential remedies. We leveraged our relationship with ODRC as needed to have well-checks performed by facility staff when we became aware of individuals expressing immediate threats of harm to self or others.  2. (PAAT) Client is Deaf and currently incarcerated in state prison. Client reported to DRO that he and other Deaf inmates can only use video phone one time per day for 45 minutes. Hearing inmates can use their GTL tablets to make phone calls until 8:30pm from anywhere in the facility. The client's family is in California, so it was difficult to reach them during his one time slot per day. The prison video phone also malfunctioned and they were unable to make any calls for a week. The client submitted grievances on teh issues without response. DRO advocated with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) for client to improved video phone services. The client was eventually released from prison and DRO lost contact. However, DRO used the video phone and other information provided by the client to advocate generally for AT improvements at all ODRC facilities. For example, due to DRO's advocacy, ODRC and GTL (ODRC's tablet vendor) agreed to develop, beta, and fully implement a closed captioning software on all ODRC tablets. GTL is also working to made video calls available on the tablet.  3. (PADD, PATBI, PAAT, PAVA) This year, in DRO’s monitoring of youth residential treatment facilities, advocates added questions regarding gender identity and pronouns. We also asked youth during site visits if they were treated with respect regarding their personal identities (gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion). Additionally, DRO asked questions to each facility’s leadership pertaining to anti-bullying curriculum inclusive of LGBTQIA+ content and onboarding training of staff that incorporated LGBTQIA+ content in the agency’s cultural competency training. DRO found that most of the youth residential treatment facilities were not addressing the unique treatment needs of LGTBQIA+ youth, had little culturally relevant onboarding curriculum for staff inclusive of this historically marginalized population, and that there was little inclusion of LGBTQIA+ content integrated in their antibullying work. As a result of DRO’s targeted advocacy efforts almost all the facilities monitored in FY23 had a more formalized client and staff education plan, staff training curriculum, and anti-bullying processes that included the use of gender-affirming pronouns selected by the youth at the time the monitoring project was closed.   Lastly, Disability Rights Ohio included mental health youth residential treatment facilities as a targeted setting for our FY24 community input on goal and objective setting process during FY23. We received 94 surveys back from youth residing menta health residential treatment facilities. 42% of the youth responding to the surveys identified as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community, further demonstrating the prevalence of this population found in the youth populations residing in Ohio’s residential treatment facilities.    4. (PADD) DRO investigated an allegation of physical assualt that occurred at a state-operated developmental center. A resident reported that a staff member kicked him in his side resulting in injury. DRO met with the individual and reviewed information related to the incident. The staff member was terminated from employment and remaining staff were retrained on appropriate resident care.  (PATBI) DRO investigated claims that a nursing agency was not providing appropriate care for client - an individual with a traumatic brain injury. DRO spoke with the client and guardians regarding the issues as well as obtained medical records from the agency. After reviewing the information, DRO provided additional resources to the client to pursue possible claims. The client obtained an attorney to address the matter further.   5. (PADD, PATBI, PAAT, PAVA) DRO conducted a monitoring visit of a state-opearted developmental center. The visit was conducted virutally due to high COVID numbers at the facility. DRO monitored this Developmental Center for all aspects of daily living, personal care, engagement, health and safety and addressed items of concern in follow-up letter of recommendations to the facility. DRO's recommendations addressed patient rights and treatment concerns, individual concerns reported by residents related to covid vaccination, needs for specialists, and needs for mental health care. DRO also recommended training of all staff in anti-bullying practices and LGBTQ+ sensitivity. DRO received a letter from the facility with documents verifying that the facility addressed each of DRO's concerns or recommendations.   6. (PAAT, PATBI) DRO completed a on-site monitoring at a residential treatment facility for youth. DRO's monitoring included meeting with leadership, facility tour, and resident interviews. DRO had monitored the facility the previous fiscal year and noted that the facility had made significant progress since the previous monitoring and made changes to their trauma-informed care programming. Residents noted a positive difference in services they were receiving. DRO also followed up on concerns regarding some aspects of the environment and resident rights. The facility responded and implemented DRO's recomendations. |
| PR | PAVA advocates worked hard to solve the controversies of accessibility in polling places and registration centers for the electoral process.  As part of our preventive program to achieves accessible electoral process, PAVA Advocates yearly make ocular inspections to polling places used in past electoral events and to Registration Centers, Permanent Inscription Board (PIB) and the new Integrated Services Centers. Our methods were to made ocular inspections and send reports to SEC officials of the Planning Office and of Presidency Office. After we find the most accessible place in the polling place, we inform the SEC. Them in next election process PAVA advocates can verify the use of this place as an Accessible Voting College. PAVA worked to improve accessibility and help SEC in the selection of Accessible Voting College in accessible polling places: 1. Polling Place Anexo Pedro Timothe – San Juan Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted was 436. 2. Polling Place Colegio Adianez Special Election Guaynabo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 155. 3. Polling Place Rafael Delgado Mateo School Special Election Guayama Municipality The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 71. 4. Polling Place Genaro Cautiño School Special Election Guayama Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 37. 5. Polling Place Carmen D. Ortiz School Special Election Aguas Buenas Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 164. 6. Polling Place El Conquistador School Special Election Trujillo Alto Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 32. 7. Polling Place Monserrate León School Cabo Rojo Municipality The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 401. 8. Polling Place José Gautier Benítez School Mayagüez Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 95. 9. Polling Place La Carmen School Maricao Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 63. 10. Polling Place Elpidio H. Rivera School Mayagüez Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 448. 11. Polling Place Leonides Morales Rodríguez Lajas Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 269. 12. Polling Place Indiera Fría Maricao Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 75. 13. Polling Place James Garfield Cabo Rojo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 200. 14. Polling Place Severo Colberg Cabo Rojo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 317. 15. Polling Place Mildred Arroyo Cabo Rojo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 350.  16. Polling Place Pole Ojea Cabo Rojo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 176. 17. Polling Place Manuel Gonzalez Rincón Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 300. 18. Polling Place Manuel García Pérez Rincón Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 225.  19. Polling Place Camilo Valles School Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 323. 20. Polling Place Josefina Ferrero School - Fajardo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 304. 21. Polling Place Antonio Rosa Guzmán School, Humacao Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 212. 22. Polling Place Violeta Reyes Pérez School, Cidra Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 133. 23. Polling Place Ramón Quiñones School, Yabucoa Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 293. 24. Polling Place Roberto Silva School Juncos Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 290. 25. Polling Place Ramón Power Giralt School Las Piedras Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 256. 26. Polling Place Dolores Gonzalez School Arroyo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 130. 27. Polling Place Jorge Rosario School San Lorenzo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 243. 28. Polling Place Luis Munoz Rivera School San Lorenzo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 277. 29. Polling Place Luis Muñoz Marín School, Ceiba Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 306. 30. Polling Place Gerardo Sellés Solá School Cayey Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 161. 31. Polling Place Regino Vega Martínez School, Cidra Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 287. 32. Polling Place Juan J Osuna School Caguas Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 217. 33. Polling Place Rosa P. Paris School Fajardo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 217. 34. Polling Place Maria T. Delgado San Lorenzo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 382. 35. Polling Places Salvador Brau Cayey Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 115.  A total of 7,743 individuals with disabilities were impacted in polling places monitories.  Registration Centers: 1. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Fajardo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 2,107. 2. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Toa Baja Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 7,485. 3. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Cidra Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 676. 4. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Rio Grande Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 4,147. 5. Integrated Services Center (PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARDS) Registration Center. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted all disabled electors, the approximate number based in Census 2020 and Elections Results of last 2020 General Elections is 277,480. 6. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Morovis Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 2,849. 7. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Maricao Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 4,600. 8. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Jayuya Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 3,043. 9. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Yauco Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 7,379. 10. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Ceiba Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted was 1,047. 11. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD San Lorenzo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 3,409. 12. PERMANENT INSCRIPTION BOARD Patillas Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted 1,535. 13. Permanent Inscription Board Maunabo Municipality. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities was 8,871. Total 61,563 PAVA Advocates also worked other advocacy strategies to improve an accessible electoral process: Other Advocacy efforts: 1. GoVoter SABE Project. The number of individuals with disabilities impacted was 10. 2. Meeting with New Progressive Party Electoral Commissioner. The approximate number of individuals with disabilities impacted all electors 277,480. For ONE PPR the number will be just one, the Electoral Commissioner. 3. Radio Victoria 840 Accessible Electoral Process Program. The approximate number of people hearing this radio Program is 10,000, using the 21.6% estimated of people with disabilities we impacted 2,160. 4. Informative Fair at State Council of Rehabilitation The number of individuals with disabilities impacted was 41. |
| PR | As 2023 wasn’t an electoral year, PAVA worked other advocacy efforts to improve accessibility in the electoral process. 1. Permanent Inscription Board Maunabo –PAVA Advocates receive information of the movement of this PIB so before moving it on March 28, 2023, PAVA made an ocular inspection and recommends moving this to another facility due to accessibility problems. Number impacted 8,871. 2. Meeting with New Progressive Party Electoral Commissioner – On May 24, 2023, PAVA Advocates, as part of Educating Policy Makers efforts, had a meeting with the Electoral Commissioner of the New Progressive Party. In this meeting we discussed the importance of accessible polling places and the requirement of HAVA on this matter. Also, PAVA Advocates emphasized the education of polling workers, and we inform that we’re available to give the training. Regarding the selection of schools and Accessible Voting College classrooms to be used, it was emphasized that Local Commissioners must use the checklist that the State Elections Commission has and that the PAVA Advocates reviewed to ensure that the facility selected as a voting center and the Accessible Voting College does not have any physical barriers. In this way, the facility to be used as a voting center is adequately evaluated. On the other hand, the Commissioner reported that when the election year begins, they will begin to provide training to the Local Commissioners and in turn to the people who will serve as polling workers. That is when the PAVA Advocates can be integrated to talk about the treatment of people with disabilities and emphasize the different accommodations that exist for voters with disabilities. This group case impacted all electors with disabilities of this political party 92,234. For ONE PPR, the impacted number will be 1, the Electoral Commissioner.  3. Radio Victoria 840 Accessible Electoral Process Program – On August 8, 2023, PAVA Advocates participated in a Radio Program at Radio Victoria 840AM where we discussed all information regarding accessible election process, the new Electoral Law, HAVA provisions, and special accommodations for electors with disabilities including Vote at Home, Vote by Mail, Early Voting in Polling Places, Accessible Polling Places, comply of HAVA 301 3b among other issues. The approximate number of people hearing this radio Program is 10,000, using the 21.6% estimated of people with disabilities we impacted 2,160. 4. Informative Fair at State Council of Rehabilitation. On September 8, 2023, PAVA Advocates participated in a Services Fair of the State Rehabilitation Council in Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín located in Trujillo Alto Municipality (metropolitan area) where we impacted PAVA with information to 41 participants. 5. New Northeast Integrated Services Center Ceiba Municipality PAVA Advocates receive information of SEC about the new Integrated Services Center in the Northeast area (where electors can made registration process in this geographical area) that will be in Ceiba Municipality in Roosevelt Roads area. PAVA Advocates performed ocular inspection and gave recommendations to building employees and to SEC officials; in this fiscal year we observed progress but is not complete. We hope this 2024 fiscal year SEC finishes with this registration center who benefit people with disabilities of the northeast region. The approximate number of people with disabilities impacted is 9,032. |
| PR | Most of the technical assistance provided by PAVA advocates was to polling workers and SEC staff. 1. PAVA advocates gave technical assistance of polling place Accessibility, including the importance of accessible booths. Technical assistances to SEC officials improve compliance with our Objective of having an accessible, secretly, and independently electoral process. 2023-08-2309661 On August 4, 2023, PAVA advocates receive a call from Juan S. Rios, Director of the SEC Geoelectoral Planning Office. He is interested in being provided with information on the dimensions required for voting booths accessible to voters with disabilities. PAVA advocates searched for the dimensions required by law, and we sent them to you by email. In this communication, we inform you of our relationship with the SEC that dates to 2004 when the HAVA Program began to be part of the Broad Committee of the SEC and has worked hand in hand with the SEC to develop new accommodations and guarantee the right to vote. of people with disabilities. Regarding the issue of voting booths, we inform you what the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) explains, which establishes that the accessible route for people with disabilities must measure at least 36 inches wide. This is why, given the circumstances of the different mobility equipment used by the population with disabilities, we recommend that the width of the booth be 36 inches. However, knowing that the free space of an access route includes movement through doors, and these require a minimum of 32 inches wide, booths for people with disabilities could have at least 32 inches wide free space. On the other hand, the surface where the person is going to place the ballot to exercise their right to vote must be 34 inches high. With this technical assistance to an SEC Official, they have the requirements for accessible booths, so that when they buy them for the next elections, they do so in compliance. |
| PR | As we’re not in Election year we don’t receive more I/R services requested, but in every monitory performed by a PAVA advocate we gave information to disabled voters who participated in the process.  2023-12-2267108  On December 19, 2022, a client with specific learning disabilities called us requesting help to obtain a duplicate of her electoral ID to have identification and be able to carry out various procedures. In the call we oriented the client about our PAVA Program, the accommodations in the electoral scenario and the provisions of the HAVA Law. Then PAVA Advocates contacts our SEC liaisons, specifically the Office of Education and Training, and the voter registration officers so that they could communicate with the client and assist her in this process. Once our management was completed, the client was offered information with self-defense and empowerment tools. The client then had his electoral card, thanks to the guidance of PAVA staff. |
| PR | As part of our Strategic Plan PAVA advocates seek to have accessible polling places. In each monitory (ocular inspection) we can check physical accessibility and give technical assistance to polling workers and information services to electors with disabilities. These ocular inspections also give us the opportunity to educate the facilities employees about PAVA provisions and accessibility awareness. In each polling place inspected, PAVA’s advocates recommends to the persons in charge of the facility, an Accessible Voting Center with an accessible route. To be an Accessible Voting Center, it must have a reserved parking for persons with disabilities. This parking must be next to the accessible entrance of the polling place. All the paths must be fully accessible, to give independence to voters with disabilities in the whole process.   After each ocular inspection, if PAVA Advocates find any accessibility problem, we send a writing report to SEC. In these reports for example, if PAVA advocates found a step in the entrance, we inform SEC, so they can provide portable ramps.   Polling Places visited in the fiscal year 2023 by PAVA Advocates:  1. Polling Place Mario Morales Coliseum – Guaynabo Municipality On March 23, 2023, PAVA advocates performed an ocular inspection of this polling place. In this, we found problems at some of the access entrances. In past electoral events, the back part of the Coliseum was used as the entrance to the center. This entrance is not accessible, due to the slope of the ramp and the lack of handrails. They informed us that they used this area in the last electoral event because of the sun. During the inspection we observed problems in the parking lot; specifically, the labeling and measurements required. In a written communication, we recommend to the President of the SEC to guide the polling workers of this center to locate the accessible entrance for people with disabilities in the front of the Coliseum, where they can in turn locate with the help of the police, for the electoral event, a provisional reserved parking lot with the sign provided by the Commission, in the unit's briefcase. The SEC in subsequent communications informed us that they will accept our recommendations. PAVA advocates will be very vigilant in complying with accessibility in this voting center. The approximate number of voters with disabilities impacted is 95. This number, like all voting centers, is 21.6%, who according to the 2020 Census are people with disabilities multiplied by the electoral participation in the center in the last electoral event.  2. Polling Place Luz America Calderon School – Carolina Municipality.  On November 30, 2022, PAVA Advocates reinspect this polling place. In the ocular inspection PAVA found problems of accessibility in the parking lot, specifically the lack of vans accessible parking. After the inspection, PAVA Advocates established communication with SEC Presidency and recommended them to guide the polling workers of this polling place of this school to be aware of this matter and to temporarily and provisionally locate a parking lot reserved for vans with the label provided by the Commission, in the unit's briefcase. It is recommended to place it in the main entrance area, the closest to the Easy Access School. As in all inspections, in subsequent communications with the SEC they informed us that they will accept our recommendations. PAVA advocates will be very vigilant in complying with accessibility in this voting center. The approximate number of voters with disabilities impacted is 365. 3. El Señorial School - San Juan Municipality.  On August 24, 2023, PAVA Advocates reinspect this polling place. This school in San Juan have a parking lot inside the school, but these parking’s have issues about signage and measures that can affect electors with disabilities accessibility.  Besides that, the designated Accessible Voting College, where it should be located the Easy Access College for electors with disabilities had a step of inch height in the entrance door. PAVA Advocates sent a report to SEC Presidency and SEC officials of the Planning Office where we recommend that in every next electoral the disabled parking should be located near the school main entrance with the label provided by the Commission, in the unit's briefcase. In terms of the step of 1 inch height at the entrance door of the Accessible Voting College we recommend SEC to provide a portable ramp for next electoral process held in this polling place. As in all inspections, in subsequent communications with the SEC they informed us that they will accept our recommendations. PAVA advocates will be very vigilant in complying with accessibility in this voting center. The approximate number of voters with disabilities impacted is 10.  On September 2023, PAVA Advocates sent a year final report where we recommend to SEC Presidency and SEC officials the possible solutions of accessibility issues of the polling places group cases.  PAVA Advocates performed 3 inspections at 3 polling places across Puerto Rico. The purpose was to verify accessibility in the polling places. All of them have some Accessibility problems. The total number of people with disabilities impacted by this objective is 465. The performance measure of this objective: Public and private places/services made more accessible. This activity helps to determine if the facility is the correct one for the next election process, in terms of physical accessibility. If the polling place is accessible, electors with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | The Permanents Inscription Board (PIB) are the old location to do registration process. Integrated Services Centers are the new places where the voters go to do all the registration process. This is the place where persons with disabilities come to request accessible voting, in the Accessible Voting College (AVC). For this reason, it should be accessible of any physical barrier. By the end of 2023 fiscal year there are Integrated Services Centers and some Permanent Inscription Board, that will remain open until the New Integrated Services Center is set and ready to receive electors. After the economic crisis in PR, to reduce budget expenses, and after the approval of the New Electoral Code of 2020 in Puerto Rico, SEC established to close Permanent Inscriptions Boards and create the new Integrated Service Center in 12 regions across Puerto Rico. Some PIB’s were closed, and others will remain open, until the Integrated Services Center are designated. Last fiscal year we reported the one that was ready, located in Caguas Municipality and will cover the central area. This year SEC communicated with PAVA advocates about the location of another Integrated Services Center.  1. One of the Integrated Services that was inspected this year is in Ceiba. This is the second one (last year we worked with Caguas) of twelve relocated to a new facility. PAVA Advocates and SEC agreed to do ocular inspection to this new location to achieve accessibility in this registration center location. The New Integrated Services Center is in Ceiba Municipality in the Northeast area (where electors can made registration process in this geographical area) in Roosevelt Roads area. PAVA Advocates performed ocular inspection and gave recommendations to building employees and to SEC officials. In this fiscal year we observed progress in accessibility matters of this location, but there're not finished. We hope, next 2024 fiscal year SEC finishes with this registration center who benefits people with disabilities of the northeast region, specifically the municipalities of Ceiba, Luquillo, Río Grande, Fajardo, and the Islands of Vieques and Culebra. The approximate number of people with disabilities impacted is 9,032. 2. Permanent Inscription Board Maunabo –PAVA Advocates received information of the relocation of this PIB so before moving it on March 28, 2023, PAVA made an ocular inspection and recommended moving this to another facility due to accessibility problems. Number impacted 8,871. This Permanent Inscription Board in Maunabo Municipality will be relocated to Humacao Municipality as an Integrated Services Center of east area that will cover the Municipalities of Humacao, Las Piedras, Yabucoa, Naguabo and Maunabo.  This Permanent Registration Board was verified, as part of the change to the new Electoral Code of Puerto Rico (Law No. 58 of June 20, 2020), which establishes the change in the form of the electoral registry. In this Law in its Article 4.6, the Permanent Registration Boards will be consolidated in twelve regions and will be named as Integrated Services Center. Through Resolution CEE-RS-21-038, regional offices were established by taking into consideration the population density and road geography of Puerto Rico. The Integrated Services Center will be in the following municipalities: Aguadilla, Aibonito, Arecibo, Bayamón, Caguas, Ceiba, Guayama, Humacao, Mayagüez, Ponce, San Juan and Utuado. However, voters can visit any Integrated Services Center of their convenience on the Island. The total number of people with disabilities impacted is 17,903. Maunabo 8,871 + Ceiba 9,032 + = 17,903  The performance measure of this objective: Registering people with disabilities to vote, Public and private places/services made more accessible and People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. If each PIB´s and Integrated Service Center is accessible, persons with disabilities will have the opportunity to register in the election and further participates in the electoral process. With these Projects People with disabilities are better able to participate fully in the electoral process. |
| PR | In a non-electoral year, (without any special elections like 2021,2022) PAVA, had to innovate to educate our main target, electors with disabilities, and polling workers. PAVA participated in several Radio and TV Programs, digital newspapers, and social media:  Digital News Puerto Rico P&A including PAVA: 1. https://www.periodicovision.com/invitan-a-conmemorar-el-dia-mundial-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/?fbclid=IwAR14wV3PMiXL9xMT3QThEvHO46jFyfOGbzhRC5VxfLM6RIGLu0K\_2K1V4-g 2. https://lavozdigitalpr.com/2023/08/06/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-celebra-congreso-anual-en-cabo-rojo/?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR0LP682uAhpwftSNQqLezKjqfA9ToB7lwn2RU78q1hBGFPsxqBK6ro\_Hmg 3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGNuVPnWsdEhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGNuVPnWsdE  PAVA Digital News  1. Video of Go-Voter Training https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=671729610833282&extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN\_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharinghttps:// 2. “Periodico El Sol” digital newspaper about Go-Voter Training held on October 13, 2022: https://periodicoelsolpr.com/2022/10/13/celebran-el-primer-taller-go-voter-para-que-personas-con-impedimentos-voten-de-forma-accesible-secreta-e-independiente/ 3. “Noticias Ponce Oficial” digital newspaper about GoVoter Training held on October 13, 2022: https://m.facebook.com/NoticiasdePonceOficial/photos/a.126802614000591/6264223510258440/ 4. Office of the Defender of People with Disabilities Facebook page: P&A celebrated the first ‘Go Voter’ training https://www.facebook.com/DPIPRinfo/videos/1425978431260020 5. TV NotiSeis video P&A celebrated the first ‘Go Voter’ training https://wipr.pr/realizan-taller-go-voter-para-que-personas-con-impedimentos-voten-de-forma-accesible-secreta-e-independiente/ 6. San Juan Daily Star digital newspaper about GoVoter training https://www.sanjuandailystar.com/post/first-go-voter-workshop-aims-to-expand-accessibility  PAVA Director participates as a guest speaker on February 28, 2023, NDRN Virtual Annual Conference 2023 Voter experiences: Partnering with the SABE GoVoter Project·     SABE GoVoter Project FACEBOOK Gabriel Esterrich gives tips on finding an audience.   Media Efforts - worked with PAIR Advocates to promote PAVA and Puerto Rico P&A  1. On October 4, 2022, PAVA advocates participated in a 30-minute Program on Radio Victoria 840 am, where we promoted the Public Hearings of the Puerto Rico Protection and Advocacy System, including PAVA 2023 SGP.  2. On November 2, 2022, PAVA advocates participated in a 30-minute Program on Radio Victoria 840 am, where we promoted the activity of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. 3. On August 8, 2023, PAVA Advocates participated in a Radio Program at Radio Victoria 840AM where we discussed all information regarding accessible election process, the new Electoral Law, HAVA provisions, and special accommodations for electors with disabilities including Vote at Home, Vote by Mail, Early Voting in Polling Places, Accessible Polling Places, comply of HAVA 301 3b among other issues. 4. On August 22, 2023, PAIR advocates participated in a 30-minute Program in Radio Victoria 840 am, where we encourage people with disabilities to participates in the Public Hearings of the Puerto Rico Protection and Advocacy System, including PAVA 2024 SGP.   In terms of this report, we will inform Radio Programs aired until September 30, 2023. We understand that these 4 Radio Programs can impact an estimate of 10,000 persons each Program. For a total of 40,000 individuals including persons with disabilities, and another public. Using the estimate of 21.6%, the impact can be almost 8,640 persons with disabilities. In radio Programs, we impacted an estimate of 8,640 persons with disabilities.  We also have a web page www.dpi.pr.gov where we have information about PAVA and had 15,372 hits this fiscal year.  In terms of services fairs PAVA participated in: On September 8, 2023, PAIR advocates participated in the Services Fair of the State Council of Rehabilitation in Luis Muñoz Marín Foundation at Trujillo Alto, in the metropolitan area in the north-east of the Island. This promotional activity impacted 41 participants. As a joint effort with PAIR, we also participated in another services fair:  On April 27, 2023, Services Fair of Rehabilitation in Cabo Rojo in the south-west region of the Island. This promotional activity impacted 73 individuals. In both services fairs we promote the PAVA Program and the P&A System impacting 114. Other promotional activities of Puerto Rico P&A, where PAVA was promoted: PAVA advocates made several media efforts about: Persons with Disabilities International Day (December 3) and Congress of the Office of the Defendant of Persons with Disabilities, where our Executive Director participates to promote P&A and their Programs, including PAVA.  On December 3, 2022, Puerto Rico P&A joined forces with the Office of the Defendant of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate the International Day of People with Disabilities. The activity was held in Luis Muñoz Marín Urban Park in San Juan, Capital of Puerto Rico. In this day almost 689 participants enjoyed a day of celebration, awareness, and empathy toward persons with disabilities. The activity was covered on TV in a three-hour live event on WIPR Channel 6 and was covered by diverse media including newspaper, internet, radio, and television. On August 10, 2023, in Cabo Rojo in the southwest area of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico P&A Executive Director participated in the Annual Activity of the Persons with Disabilities Bill of Rights (Act 258 of 2004). In this activity our Executive Director, among other advocates of Puerto Rico P&A promoted our Office, the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities in Puerto Rico, created by Act 64 of 2001 and the Programs, including PAVA. The theme of the activity was diversity, values, and respect toward persons with disabilities. The P&A impacted almost 100 people with disabilities.  Media efforts related to macro-efforts of Puerto Rico P&A including PAVA Program: 1. https://www.periodicovision.com/invitan-a-conmemorar-el-dia-mundial-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos/?fbclid=IwAR14wV3PMiXL 2. https://wiac740.com/index.php/2022/10/24/invitan-a-personas-con-impedimentos-y-ciudadanos-en-general-a-taller-en-ponce/ 3. https://lavozdigitalpr.com/2023/08/06/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-celebra-congreso-anual-en-cabo-rojo/?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR0LP682uAhpwftSNQqLezKjqfA9ToB7lwn2RU78q1hBGFPsxqBK6ro\_Hmghttps://lavozdigitalpr.com/2023/08/06/defensoria-de-las-personas-con-impedimentos-celebra-congreso-anual-en-cabo-rojo/?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR0LP682uAhpwftSNQqLezKjqfA9ToB7lwn2RU78q1hBGFPsxqBK6ro\_Hmg 4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGNuVPnWsdE  In terms of paper brochures, we disseminated 214 in the services fairs where PAVA participated during the fiscal year. These media efforts contribute to reach our goal of an accessible election, guarantee the secret and independence for all electors with disabilities in all the process.   The purpose of the different interventions in the media is to educate future voters, polling workers, SEC officials and general public about:  1. Rights of persons with disabilities,  2. The voting process,  The accessibility of the polling places and the Accessible Voting College, 4. The alternative of Vote by Mail, where electors request this early voting, receiving the ballots by mail and returning by mail to SEC, 5. The alternative Vote at Home, where a designated Board representing the political parties let persons with mobility disabilities cast the vote in their home, dates before the Election Day, 6. The alternative Vote in Hospital, where SEC designated a Board representing the political parties let people hospitalized cast their vote in the hospital’s room, 7. The alternative of Vote by Phone System.  The performance measure of this objective: Education and training of people with disabilities on their voting rights. The importance of this priority is to educate general public, who´s can spread the information among family or relatives with disabilities.  The purpose of the different interventions in the media is to achieve an accessible electoral process impacting all electors with disabilities 277,480. The 277,489 estimate is the result of: Electors that vote in General Elections 2020 1,284,630 \* 0.216% = 277,480. The 21.6% is the estimate provided in 2019 American Community Survey Estimates Subject Tables Disability Characteristics Survey/Program: American Community Survey Table ID: S1810 https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=disabilities%20per%20county&g=0400000US72,72.050000&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1810&hidePreview=false. |
| PR | PAVA Advocates, continuing working with SABE Go Voter Project and NDRN. Last fiscal year PAVA advocates began a joint effort with SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) organization to work specifically in GoVoter Project.  Late in August 2022, PAVA identified 10 leaders of the disabled community to give then the GoVoter training, so them can replicate the training next fiscal year. The training initially was scheduled for September 23, 2022, but unfortunately, Huracan Fiona hit Puerto Rico and we reschedule it for October 2022, obviously some of the advocates confirmed for this training for the change of date, couldn’t participate. So, in less than a week PAVA Advocates recruited other advocates to the rescheduled date. On October 13, 2022, PAVA Advocates with the help of SABE officials gave the first GoVoter Training in Puerto Rico, joining the other 37 P&A in this unique Project.  The training was held in our Central Office Conference room on October 13, 2022, from 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM to 10 leaders for the disabled community in Puerto Rico, 9 of them arrived at the Office and the 10th participant joined the training using the digital alternative of Microsoft Teams. This training consists of the presentation created by SABE officials, that was previously translated to Spanish by PAVA advocate. The training was highly coverage by media, including live presentation of two TV station WIPR Channel 6 and TeleOro Channel 13. In both live presentations some of the advocates express their complete satisfaction with the training and compromise with enthusiastic commitment to further GoVoter Activities. Also, we promoted PAVA and accessibility in the electoral process. The media results were included in the previous objective. |
| PR | As we established in SGP 2023, SEC Committee and Sub-committees are activated by SEC. Unfortunately, the SEC Presidency had administrative changes, including the change in the President position. For several political issues, the Puerto Rico Government don’t renew the former President to another term and this change in the Presidency affected the work of such committees. SEC doesn’t activate the Committee nor Sub-committees this year.  Despite that, PAVA continued effective communication with SEC officials. In the first goal of this PPR we report our results that were achieved due our closely work with SEC officials:  1. Objective 1.1 - Where we reported our achievements with group cases closed. 2. Objective 1.2 - Where we reported our achievements with 5 open group cases, four of them were closed thanks to great communication with SEC officials. 3. Objective 1.3 - Where we described technical assistance to SEC officials specifically about the voting booths for electors with disabilities.   The main activity that also compliance with this objective was the Meeting with New Progressive Party Electoral Commissioner – On May 24, 2023, PAVA Advocates as part of Educating Policy Makers efforts, have a meeting with the Electoral Commissioner of the New Progressive Party. In this meeting we discussed the importance of accessible polling places and the requirement of HAVA on this matter. Also, PAVA Advocates emphasized the education of polling workers, and we inform that we’re available to give the training. Regarding the selection of schools and Accessible Voting College classrooms to be used, it was emphasized that Local Commissioners must use the checklist that the State Elections Commission has and that the PAVA Advocates reviewed to ensure that the facility selected as a voting center and the Accessible Voting College does not have any physical barriers. In this way, the facility to be used as a voting center is adequately evaluated. On the other hand, the Commissioner reported that when the election year begins, they will begin to provide training to the Local Commissioners and in turn to the people who will serve as polling workers. That is when the PAVA Advocates can be integrated to talk about the treatment of people with disabilities and emphasize the different accommodations that exist for voters with disabilities.  This objective impacts all electors with disabilities. When you educate policy makers and SEC officials including several communications with SEC Presidency, you can estimate that all electors with disabilities receive the information. The estimate based in the Census 2019 is 21.6%, Electors that vote in General Elections 2020 was 1,284,630 \* 0.216% = 277,480. Of the 277,480, 33.24% in the last General Elections 2020 vote for the New Progressive Party, you can estimate 92,234 persons with disabilities. |
| PR | PAVA Program Manager in collaboration with PAVA advocates, prepared an SGP draft with a data driven strategic plan of: • Staff experience – PAVA Director has been working with the Program since the start of PAVA in Puerto Rico, 2004. The other employees have experienced of several year working in these matters. • Monitories and investigations of accessibility in Polling places and Permanent Inscription Board (PIB´s) or Integrated Services Center. Knowing the reality of inaccessibility in Puerto Rico, PAVA realizes the importance of making monitories and investigations to assure accessibility. In case the selected locations by SEC are inaccessible, we report it so they can select accessible places. • PAVA Program Manager made research, comparing PAVA SGP draft with other P&A’s to produce a SGP that meets with P&A standards. • Public Comments – PAVA spread the PAVA SGP FY 2023 for public comments by internet and emails blast. Then after receiving this input, PAVA adopted some of these recommendations and finalized the SGP. • Collaboration with other Programs of the Protection and Advocacy System of Puerto Rico – PAVA share information with other programs and establish joint efforts to achieve an accessible electoral process. • Public Hearing – On September 29, 2023, PAVA Advocates lead a public hearing by Microsoft Teams.   PR P&A use their dta....pagina 33   PADD - PR P&A use their data related to the services requested received, information recollected on training evaluations, and staff experiences to develop their SGP. Programs Coordinators in collaboration with their team, prepared an SGP draft with a data driven strategic plan of: • Staff experience • Monitories and investigations: including, among others, but not limited to, those of accessibility in Polling places and Permanent Inscription Board (PIB´s) in General Elections and Special Elections. • Research: Using the available results of need assessment of the disability community from collaborators like, CEDD, CEVI, PRATP, among others.  • Public Comments – P&A spread the SGP FY 2023 for public comments by internet and emails blast.  • Collaboration with other Programs of the Protection and Advocacy System of Puerto Rico – shared information with other programs and established joint efforts to achieve an accessible electoral process.  • Public Hearing – P&A held a public hearing by Microsoft Teams. We received input from several organizations like the Institute of Developmental Disabilities, the Council of Developmental Disabilities, Movement of Organizations of persons with Disabilities, Private Advocates among others. Their input was considered to SGP in all P&A Programs This process contributes to develop the P&A's 2023 Goals and Priorities. |
| RI | Rhode Island law requires that all mail ballots be received by the Board of Elections by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. This hard deadline means that if a mail ballot is sent by mail before Election Day and post marked before Election Day but the arrives after Election Day, the ballot will not be counted. In previous fiscal years, DRRI and its community partners advocated for the State to provide temporary drop box receptacles at every polling place. In FY2023, the Board of Elections continued this practice which makes casting a ballot easier for voters with disabilities in the last days leading up to Election Day.   Prior to 2022, the Rhode Island mail ballot process required all mail ballot applicants to submit an an original signed application for a mail ballot with no option to submit an application via facsimile, email or on-line portal. Over years of PAVA advocacy work, DRRI encountered a number of voters who were disenfranchised by this requirement. DRRI identified the requirement to election policy makers as restrictive and a barrier to voting for people with disabilities. Following education by DRRI and advocacy by community partners, RI passed comprehensive election reform legislation called the Let RI Vote Act in 2022. The new law allowed for the creation of an on-line option for submitting a mail ballot application, eliminated a notary-witness requirement and made other changes to increase voter participation and election security. In FY2023, the State commenced use of an on-line portal that enables RI voters with disabilities who have a state ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a mail ballot application on-line. This change in practice potentially impacts all people with disabilities who have a State issued ID by making electoral participation easier. The number is approximately 235,800 people. |
| RI | In FY2023, DRRI operated a year-round voter hotline to assist voters to register to vote; ascertain their voter registration status; learn about the ways to vote, technologies available and voting rights; and to respond to rights violations. DRRI conducted outreach about our hotline and voting services via RI’s Public Transit system (RIPTA), RI Public Radio, a free magazine with broad distribution and at trainings and community events. The RIPTA outreach program included large signs on the sides of 12 king buses that passed through 90% of the State especially in underserved communities. DRRI’s hotline was publicized on the Secretary of State’s website and Voter Guide that was mailed to 400,000 households, and in voter’s rights pamphlets distributed by the RI ACLU and Common Cause. The radio and free magazine campaign ran for the General Election in November and for a Special Congressional Election in the fall of 2023. This outreach work was targeted at reaching diverse populations. We estimate that this information and referral outreach potentially reached approximately 225,120 people with disabilities and is reported in the Overview of People Served by PAVA at Section B.3. The 8 calls we received were treated as service requests and will be discussed with PAVA priority 5. DRRI provided technical assistance and substantive content about voting rights and accessible voting features for the Secretary of State’s State Voting Guide that was mailed to all households for the November 2022 Election. All people with disabilities are better able participate in voting due to DRRI content included in the State Guide. |
| RI | In Rhode Island, the Board of Elections trains and educates all poll workers across the state with oral presentation, power points and a Poll Worker Manual that poll workers are required to review and bring to their assigned polls. In FY2023, DRRI educated poll workers by providing disability-related voting rights and best practices information for the mandatory training materials for all RI poll workers. The RI Board of Elections incorporated DRRI’s proposed content into the Poll Worker Manual that poll workers read. DRRI trained Board of Elections staff regarding poll place accessibility in FY2022 for the FY2023 General Election. DRRI trained volunteers with the Common Cause Election Protection program about the types of issues that should be reported to DRRI on election day. These efforts reached 2500 poll workers, staff, and volunteers and are reported in Section J for PAVA Program Performance Measurements. While DRRI views the impact of uniformly educating poll workers about voting rights and best practices working with people with disabilities as potentially impacting all voters with disabilities in RI, these activities will be reported in terms of the number of Election Officials trained and not counted here as impacting all 228,300 voters with disabilities. Since there is no appropriate performance measure option in this ONE PPR section, the number provided is 0. |
| RI | In FY2023, DRRI monitored state implementation of electronic voting processes that enable people with disabilities to vote from home using their own assistive technology. In previous years, DRRI had advocated for an electronic option for applying for a mail ballot application. As noted in the PAVA Narrative, in FY2023 the State commenced use of an on-line portal that enables RI voters with disabilities who have a state ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a mail ballot application on-line with their own personal device. This change in operations potentially impacts all people with disabilities who have a State issued ID by making electoral participation easier. The number is approximately 235,800 people and was reported in the PAVA performance measures. To avoid duplication of impact, the number 1 will be utilized here for a performance measure. |
| SC | Priority 1 and 2  1. Outreach Event: DRSC presented Voting Rights and Advocacy to care takers, staff, and individuals with disabilities at the Charles Lea Center in Spartanburg on 9/5/2023. There were 15 participants at this event. (PAVA)  Priority 1 Outreach Event:   DRSC presented on Voting is My Right Campaign to care takers and individuals with disabilities at Charles Lea Center in Spartanburg on 9/18/2023. There were 4 participants at the event. (PAVA)  Estimate is 19 based on attendees. |
| SC | Priority 2 and 4: 1. Election Protection Collaboration DRSC is collaborating with the NAACP, the Legal Defense Fund, Black Voters Matter, League of Women Voters, Upstate Action Alliance, and other groups of SC lawyers, legal protections groups, and elections advocates. DRSC participated in monitoring elections through polling place surveys and responding to complaints of accessibility related elections interference.   DRSC held a convening with 105 attendants from throughout the state. Most of the attendants were poll workers, election monitors, or legal defenders. Two members of the Disability Voting Coalition (representing USC AT and Equip) came with DRSC staff to deliver a conversation on legal protection in voting and access to polling places. Attendants learned about the importance of election day and year-round voting accessibility, the different AT systems available to voters, and the different rules around assistance and curbside voting. By training these stakeholders we grew the number of poll workers and election protection volunteers that understand the civil rights of PWD, and to call us with any individual advocacy needs. (PAVA)   These volunteers are prepared to monitor and serve at polling places on election day(PAVA funding)  The estimate of this intervention is based on 105 attendees. |
| SD | DRSD was made aware of an act of violence perpetrated by a juvenile with disabilities served at one of the state’s largest Community Support Providers against a staff person employed there, and out of concern for other children (and staff) subsequently decided to monitor the agency’s Children's Services division. DRSD staff toured the facility and met with staff and individuals served at the location during 3 in-person visits held across 7 months. No serious concerns came to DRSD’s attention during the monitoring visits, but Advocates received reports of misconduct and incorrect reporting practices from employees. DRSD provided education and information to staff concerning resources for their own personal assistance, and to assist clients served at the location.   DRSD performed a year-long monitoring at the state’s Developmental Center, in order to help ensure that the individuals served within the facility were in a safe environment and free from abuse and neglect. DRSD performed 7 visits throughout the year, providing education and information to the individuals at the Developmental Center, and monitoring their living conditions and services to protect them from rights violations, abuse, and neglect.   DRSD chose a Community Support Provider to monitor across the PADD, PATBI, and PAVA programs as a result of new ownership and subsequent limited communication from the agency. DRSD completed three in-person visits, wherein we interviewed staff and individuals served at the agency. We visited numerous group homes and the day services area. At one group home, DRSD noticed a loose safety railing, and unsecured chemicals at another. DRSD addressed these concerns with staff, and reiterated the importance of safety in group home settings. The concerns were addressed, and individuals were able to live and access services in a safer environment. |
| SD | DRSD Staff participate in State HAVA board meetings and Board of Elections meetings ensuring the rights of individuals with disabilities are included in discussions related to the electoral process.   The DRSD PAVA Lead continued to serve on the South Dakota State Independent Living Council (SILC), and was reappointed through June 30, 2026. SILC participants attend quarterly meetings to discuss the activities and services provided by the state’s two independent living service agencies. SILC participants ensure the services provided by the agencies are conducted as stated in the State Plan for Independent Living. DRSD/PAVA staff also participates on a SILC committee, which is focused on Advocacy/Interagency Collaboration. PAVA staff ensure voting rights and elections participation are included in discussions regarding independent living skills training and transition services planning.  Intake staff ask all new callers if they are registered to vote. If callers indicated they were not, a voter registration packet would be offered and sent if requested. Voter registration packets included: South Dakota Voter Registration form; Voting, Everything You Need to Know DRSD voting brochure; and a voting rights wallet card.  Two individuals with disabilities contacted DRSD for specific assistance in obtaining and completing the voter registration process. The PAVA Lead worked with clients to complete and return their voter registration forms, making them eligible to vote in the FY2023 municipal and mid-term elections.  DRSD staff conduct outreach and training at various agencies across the state including, but not limited to, community support agencies, Independent Living agencies, nursing facilities, behavioral health agencies, DD/IDD community support providers, transition services programs, State DD/IDD and Mental health residential services, and Veteran’s services. |
| SD | DRSD PAVA received one call regarding polling site access during the November 8, 2022, mid-term elections. DRSD Intake staff provided the individual with information about a polling site closer to the voter’s home which was fully accessible.   DRSD staff conducted polling site monitoring/observations during the November 8, 2022, mid-term elections. Some identified issues were addressed in real time and resolved while staff were at the site. However, there were eight counties with issues which resulted in DRSD filing a HAVA complaint on behalf of voters due to access issues related to the ES&S Express Vote, Ballot Marking Device (BMD). Issues observed included the BMD being placed against a wall at the back of the room where individuals with disabilities were unable to get through tables to reach it, BMDs not being set up and ready to go, BMDs placed in a manner with no privacy when voting, and a software issue that was not addressed making the BMD inoperable.   A settlement was reached between DRSD, Board of Elections/SOS, and the auditors from the eight counties. In the agreement, the auditors took responsibility for the issues and agreed to implementing steps to ensure all individuals will have access to the BMD and private voting in future elections. |
| SD | The DRSD Executive Director and PAVA staff participated in a January 23, 2023, training provided by the Secretary of State office and Board of Elections (BOE) for Legislators and the subsequent BOE meeting. Legislators and BOE members were provided with information regarding the importance and ease of use for the ExpressVote BMD and were provided with a demonstration of the BMD. During a subsequent public meeting, the PAVA Program Lead rebutted public comments regarding Ballot Marking Devices not being needed. PAVA staff explained the importance of having BMDs in polling sites to allow individuals with disabilities to vote privately and independently. PAVA staff also encouraged all to use the BMD, explaining it is available for anyone to use, not just for individuals with disabilities, and emphasized they are secure because they are not connected to the internet.  PAVA staff received an invitation from the Secretary of State to participate in a bi-annual training conference for all the county auditors scheduled for October 18, 2023. PAVA staff will focus on issues identified by DRSD staff while conducting polling site observations and the importance of the BMD and other assistive technology for voters. South Dakota County Auditors are the local election officers responsible for conducting voting. Attendance will consist of all 66 county auditors and/or their representatives. Since HAVA legislation, the meeting is held in the fall before general or statewide elections. The meeting is a way to address and share the impact of proposed HAVA-directed changes. The county auditors take the information/instructions back to their counties and apply them to the local environment. Their responsibilities include training of paid poll workers and volunteers involved in the elections process and ensuring poll sites are accessible. PAVA staff will provide training to approximately 119 elections officials during the October 18, 2023, training, attendees will be provided with an "Everything You Need to Know about Voting" brochure by DRSD staff. |
| SD | DRSD PAVA staff conducted a combined 62 education/training and outreach activities, with 375 individuals receiving training. The training incorporated information regarding voting rights of people with disabilities and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), including the state process for filing a HAVA complaint. Training was conducted at various agencies and facilities, including Community Support Providers, State Developmental Disabilities Center, Behavioral Health units, community mental health agencies, nursing and assisted living facilities, and community outreach events.  DRSD's Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program provides continuing education classes for past PIP graduates during the final yearly session/graduation held in April. PAVA staff provided training during a continuing education session on voting rights, registering to vote, the importance of voting both in general and local elections, the process for filing a HAVA complaint, and the ability to participate in the electoral process by being an election worker. |
| SD | DRSD established Goal 7, Miscellaneous, to strike a balance between its topical goal areas and the need to be able to efficiently record activities into the DAD system. Priority 7.2 is where DRSD recorded all non-case activity (projects) except for monitoring and investigations. Many of these activities are described elsewhere in this PPR, such as in the "Description of P&A Operations" and the "Collaborations" sections. Performance Measures are set out in Part III of this PPR.  The following are examples of activities under 7.2.  EDUCATION/TRAINING  DRSD conducts numerous Education/Training activities throughout the year, many of which are multi-program efforts in order to combine expertise and offer well-developed education and training opportunities across our state. Some examples are as follows:  1. Disability Rights South Dakota’s Adult Team worked throughout the year to provide rights education and training to individuals being served at the South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC) in Redfield, SD. These efforts consisted of monthly in-person visits to the facility, where DRSD staff met with individuals receiving services and support staff in different areas such as education, direct support, medical, administration, and human rights. Efforts focused on rights education, specifically the issues of abuse and neglect, community access, access to education, voting rights, guardianship, and employment. The training was provided in-person utilizing various interactive games that combined physical activities with education, encouraging participation and information retention. The purpose of these efforts was to ensure access to the P&A and educate individuals on abuse, neglect, and rights advocacy.  2. Disability Rights South Dakota collaborated with South Dakota Parent Connection (Parent Training and Information Center) to create and publish a booklet entitled, "Preparing for the Future ... Understanding Guardianship and Alternatives." Partially to promote the booklet, DRSD and South Dakota Parent Connection further collaborated by providing education/training sessions about guardianship and its alternatives at three state-wide conferences: Lighting the Way (Autism) Conference; Transition Services Liaison Program Summer Institute; and the Statewide Developmental Disabilities Conference. Attendees included students, parents, educators, and other professionals. DRSD provided three additional similar trainings on guardianship and alternatives. One was in collaboration with the Division of Developmental Disabilities over Zoom, and two were at Community Support Providers. Attendees at these events included individuals with disabilities, their guardians, support staff, and teachers or other disability professionals.   3. For the 31th consecutive year, Disability Rights South Dakota provided a six-month self-advocacy training course for individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as their support staff and advocates. Partners in Policymaking is an annual extensive training program that teaches self-advocacy skills, legislative knowledge, and provides networking opportunities for individuals with disabilities and those who support them. Partners in Policymaking (PIP) also teaches its participants where and how to obtain services, focusing on education, community inclusion, housing, Social Security, and abuse and neglect. Participants learn about disability-centered history, specifically focusing on rights and person-first language and systemic change. Eighteen participants graduated in 2023. The community inclusion, development of skills, and the use of those skills will continue over the lifetime of the graduates. Disability Rights South Dakota’s Partners in Policymaking class is the only class in the nation that met in-person every year since its inception.   4. Disability Rights South Dakota presented to Northern State University advanced post-secondary students about legal protections for special education students and common issues that DRSD addresses in that field, such as exclusion from school, restraint and seclusion, transition services, and guardianship. DRSD also discussed DRSD's mission and role.  5. DRSD provided information about DRSD programs and training to LEND students from the Center for Disabilities. The purpose was to train medical professionals in advocacy for people with disabilities, how to approach legislators at the state capitol, and regarding collaborations of the DD Network (DRSD, DD Council, UCEDD).  6. Disability Rights South Dakota PATBI staff presented at community mental health centers in the state on the topic of screening for undiagnosed traumatic brain injuries. The purpose of the presentation was to increase awareness of the possible presence of a traumatic brain injury and the impact that it may have on mental illness and the treatment of individuals who have been diagnosed with mental illness.   7. PAVA staff presented on voting rights to transition students at a transition program.  EDUCATING POLICYMAKERS  DRSD received reports from individuals who had experienced modification or reduction of benefits and services provided by the State. These individuals had followed the appeals process and subsequently the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)’s favorable decision was rejected by the State, which is allowed by administrative rule and law. The appeals process was not clear, nor were the rules concerning the ALJ’s decision and whether the individuals must have exhausted all administrative remedies before pursuing the appeals process in the court system.   In 2023, as part of an ongoing effort to address the issues reported by individuals with disabilities and their families, DRSD spent a significant amount of time educating legislators and urging their review of the waiver programs and systems in place to support individuals with disabilities, with the ultimate goal being access to services and due process. These efforts resulted in the legislative body ordering an independent study to review the Family Support 360 Medicaid Waiver, and the Shared Living program, which is a component of the CHOICES Medicaid waiver.   The independent study connected with more than 200 stakeholders within the state via interviews and listening sessions, collected more than 500 survey responses, and conducted 85 unique interviews across the state. Part of the findings of the study included an echo of what DRSD had heard and reported to the legislature and the Division of Developmental Disabilities: individuals felt there was no way to appeal a denial without the process becoming adversarial. The recommendation to the Division was to develop a complaint and grievance process, and institute an ombudsman to help families raise issues and seek resolutions. Further, the study found that individuals and their families were surprised to find the Department of Human Services could overturn fair hearing results when denials or terminations were appealed within the existing system, and were confused about the steps to pursue due process. The recommendation to the Division of Developmental Disabilities was to include a full description of the appeals process in any denial notices.  These recommendations, when implemented, are designed ensure individuals with developmental disabilities are better able to understand and access services and their due process rights within the state. This is a direct result of DRSD assisting individuals and their families through self-advocacy to be heard by the legislature, and DRSD testifying and educating legislators about the concerns and needs of individuals with disabilities across the state.    OTHER SYSTEMIC (NON-LITIGATION) ACTIVITIES  DRSD believes that being part of policymaking boards, committees, and councils is an effective way of having systemic impact. However, it is often difficult to attempt to determine effectively how many individuals with disabilities are potentially impacted, let alone assign numbers to specific performance measures. The following describes several boards/committees/councils in which the ACL programs participated, as well as additional systemic (non-litigation) activities.  DRSD participated in the Supporting Families Community of Practice workgroup to build capacity within South Dakota to build policies, practices, and systems to better assist and support families that include individuals with ID/DD.   The DRSD PAAT Program Lead continues to serve on the Interagency Transition Council. This group, comprised of professionals mostly from the Sioux Falls vicinity, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, several public schools, Transition Services Liaison Project, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Center for Disabilities (UCEDD), and others, meet monthly to share information and ideas on transition services.  The PAAT Lead was also able to work with the Citizen’s Advisory Council of Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas regarding issues of sidewalk and community access for individuals who use mobility devices. Advocates worked with state and local agencies on assistive technology needs and what AT services each agency can provide, or any needs identified and how to best meets the needs.   Disability Rights South Dakota's PATBI Program Lead is on the South Dakota Advisory Panel for Children with Disabilities. The panel addressed the issue of poor communication between schools and parents and addressed the manner that parents can access resources that will help them better understand special education and also better advocate for their children.   Disability Rights South Dakota's PABTI Program Lead is also on the board of directors for the Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota. The issue of services for individuals who have suffered a TBI was addressed. The organization also hosts support groups and provides information and referrals to other organizations that may be able to provide needed services to individuals in the state who have suffered a TBI.  The DRSD Executive Director participated as a member of the state Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). This is discussed in detail in the Collaborations section.  DRSD participates on the Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Partnership Committee. This committee meets quarterly to review statistics and initiatives, provide suggestions and guidance, and monitor implementation of JDAI in Minnehaha County. DRSD participates as a community member interested in ensuring consideration of youth with disabilities.  DRSD participated in the South Dakota Department of Education Statewide Data Drilldown. DRSD reviewed data and heard information on statewide special education performance. DRSD provided feedback to the state Department of Education on performance issues. The board/committee addressed the issue of appropriate suspension of students and reviewed the process; it also addressed transition services. A result was changes in the way the state reviews how local school districts conduct long-term suspensions, which should result in students being less likely to be subject to improper suspensions.  DRSD participated on the Disability Awareness and Accessibility Review Board. This board is an extension of the Sioux Falls Human Relations Commission and acts as an advisory committee to the Mayor, City Council, and ADA Coordinator on disability awareness and universal accessibility of city buildings, programs, and services. This board provides education to heighten the awareness of physical, social, and economic barriers for persons with disabilities, organizes public awareness activities, and educates the public about the role, function, and activities of the Human Relations Commission.  There are always questions about the transfer of rights at age eighteen and the need to consider guardianship. Parents often report that their schools inform them that they MUST obtain guardianship by their child's eighteenth birthday. This has resulted in many unneeded guardianships. To help answer the questions that parents, students, school personnel, and other professionals may have, DRSD and South Dakota Parent Connection decided to create and publish a booklet on guardianship, but most importantly, on lesser restrictive alternatives that may be appropriate. Work began on this project in FY 2022. The 28-page booklet, "Preparing for the Future ... Understanding Guardianship and Alternatives," was completed and published in FY 2023; booklets became available in early June 2023. While the booklet is aimed at students who will be turning age eighteen, the content is applicable to any age where guardianship is considered.  In FY 2007, DRSD, in collaboration with South Dakota Parent Connection, the Transition Services Liaison Project, and the Center for Disabilities, completed and published "What Parents Should Know ... About Special Education in South Dakota." The DRSD Legal Director wrote the 240-page book and received editorial and content suggestions from the other agencies. At the end of FY 2023, work began, in collaboration with South Dakota Parent Connection and the Center for Disabilities, to revamp and revise the book, giving it a new look. It will be completed in FY 2024.  DRSD completed translation of its DRSD brochure, PAVA brochure, and CAP brochure into Spanish. |
| TN | DRT’s voting team conducted poll site accessibility surveys on November 8, 2022 to ensure that polling locations across the state are free of physical barriers. DRT recruited 33 volunteers to assist with these efforts including DRT staff, law students from Vanderbilt’s Law Students for Social Justice Program, and State Voices and the CivicTN coalition. This year, DRT focused survey efforts on larger counties across the grand regions of the state, surveying a total of 192 polling locations across Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Montgomery, Shelby, and Williamson Counties. Following Election Day efforts, the PAVA team analyzed the results of the surveys in an effort to identify statewide and county trends, create focused advocacy plans for each county, and to implement remedies at the county level and provide targeted training to election officials. Of the sites surveyed, only 4% of sites statewide were free of accessibility barriers, with the lack of adequate accessible parking OR accessible parking that is not on the shortest route to the accessible entrance being the primary issues identified across sites and counties.  Parking discrepancies were most commonly identified at schools across counties as well. A general overview of county findings and responses is outlined below. In Davidson County, DRT surveyed 77 sites and accessible parking violations were identified at 24 sites.  In response to DRT’s findings and ongoing discussions with the county Administrator of Elections, Davidson County purchased over 100 collapsible cones with designated accessible parking symbols attached to create temporary parking spaces in closer proximity to the accessible entrance. During the local Davidson County election in August 2023, DRT re-surveyed the sites previously flagged for inadequate accessible parking. At this time, DRT found that the county was utilizing the cones as reported to bring accessible parking closer to the entrance, although at some sites, cones were not set up in a manner to allow for a temporary space and an access aisle. DRT will provide additional guidance to the county administrator of elections on more effective use of these temporary measures prior to the 2024 election cycle.  In Shelby county, DRT surveyed 44 sites and identified multiple sites with inadequate accessible and van accessible parking, many of which also lacked a passenger drop off area, making access even more difficult. There were also multiple sites where surveyors found interior doors that were too heavy. In response to DRT’s advocacy efforts, Shelby County re-surveyed all sites identified as having significant accessibility issues and remedied the accessibility barriers identified either through the permanent or temporary solutions and by moving a handful of sites to more accessible locations.  In Knox County, DRT surveyed 40 sites and similarly found parking accessibility to be the most significant county trend where accessible parking was not in close proximity to the entrance. Some locations also included inaccessible/inadequate ramps and lifts. The election commission was very receptive to DRT’s recommendations and committed to contacting Davidson County to get information about purchasing similar collapsible cones. They also re-assigned one of the poll sites where accessibility issues were too significant for temporary improvements. Additionally, the commission posted information about inaccessible sites to inform the general public about processes for voting at an alternative location.  In Williamson County, DRT surveyed 12 polling locations. Williamson now utilizes convenience voting centers allowing voters to vote at any designated voting center. While physical accessibility of the sites was generally suitable, DRT observed sites with significant overcrowding, long lines, and extended wait times which created accessibility challenges for many voters. In response to these findings, the Williamson County Election Commission will be creating two-three additional voting centers to address overcrowding.  DRT identified similar but less significant parking barriers in Montgomery county and reported these findings to the county administrator. They agreed to survey these sites and explore temporary measures to bring accessible parking closer to the entrance. Surveys in Hamilton County did not indicate accessibility issues that need to be addressed at this time.  While DRT’s primary advocacy efforts were focused on working with individual counties this year to remedy barriers at the local level, this pattern in violations indicates a need for future statewide improvements as well. DRT requested that the TN Secretary of State’s Division of Elections update the guidance provided to counties to include specific language to ensure that accessible parking is in close proximity to the accessible entrance. |
| TN | DRT voting staff regularly conducts independent voting rights workshops, outreach, and training activities designed to educate people with disabilities, their family members, support professionals, and partner agencies working to create equitable elections. The purpose of these efforts is to ensure that voters with disabilities are empowered with information about the voting processes, their voting rights, and how to effectively self-advocate when they encounter barriers in the voting process. Voters with disabilities are more likely to experience difficulties while voting and information about elections and candidates is often not available in accessible formats or plain language that can be understood by all voters. As such, DRT developed and carried out a robust training and outreach plan to bring accessible information to voters who are historically unserved or underserved in our state and to also train other organizations on how to make their efforts more inclusive of voters with disabilities.  In FY2023, DRT continued the work from the previous year to provide training to new or first-time voters attending High School or post-secondary inclusive programs at colleges and universities across the state. This year, DRT held voting rights training sessions and an opportunity for voter registration for students at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, Next Steps at Vanderbilt and the Futures Program at UT Knoxville. The voting team will continue to expand this college-focused program across the state. Additionally, DRT trained young adults receiving vocational rehabilitation services in Paris, TN, a cohort of students with Vanderbilt’s Educate 2 Advocate program, and adults with disabilities at the Center for Independent Living in a rural TN county. The voting team also expanded efforts to include a new underserved population of voters in county jails. While project activities are covered in more detail in a separate project, it should be noted that DRT partnered with the Free the Vote Coalition and the Davidson County Sheriffs office to conduct voting rights training and voter registration activities in the Davidson County Jail. Over the course of a week, DRT spoke to over 200 individuals and registered 48. This outreach also included education about available voting accommodations and targeted support to advocate for individuals who expressed needing assistance in the voting process.  DRT also engaged in multiple outreach activities where individuals received information about PAVA and voting rights and registration. The voting team disseminated information across two county mayoral forums for voters who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, multiple transition fairs, the TN Mega Conference, and delivered accessibility specific information to election officials and civic engagement groups at the TN Democracy Project Conference. DRT also focused on raising awareness of partner organizations to build their capacity to assist voters with disabilities. DRT continued its collaboration with CivicTN, the state table for civic engagement and trained partners organizations as well as a group of Youth Fellows working with the coalition on three different occasions. Topics included poll site accessibility, information accessibility, barriers to voting, and general disability voting rights.  Finally, DRT developed new voting materials and resources, assisted the US Vote Foundation in developing a TN specific online voter guide for voters with disabilities, and worked with a national coalition to spread awareness and train other groups on how to conduct poll site accessibility surveys. Across all of these efforts, DRT provided outreach materials and training to over 550 individuals and helped 61 individuals register to vote. 39.47% of the DRT’s documented outreach activities highlighted the voting program or offered information related to voting across 45 events total. |
| UT | Training Participated as a panelist during an accessible technology session at a summit attended by local, county and state governments to educate government leaders on the importance of providing accessible electronic formats and explain the impact that accessible technology has on citizens with disabilities. Provided information about federal accessibility standards and resources available that governments can use to improve accessibility of digital formats. Taught 24 attendees about web access.  In a presentation at the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) Conference, the DLC shared the findings of our ballot drop box study with 48 county clerks and election administrators. We provided suggestions for overcoming the most common access problems and offered technical support as counties make choices about electronic ballot delivery, voting accommodations including signature verification, and ballot box and vote center access. A DLC voting advocate also met with newly elected county clerks in 9 counties. We provided information about the DLC’s PAVA program and offered technical assistance to support them with preparing for an accessible election. We also met with new election team members in Millard, Beaver, Garfield, Tooele, Wasatch and Summit counties providing requested technical assistance.  Staff met with election administrators in eleven counties (Kane, Wayne, Piute, Sevier, Salt Lake, Rich, Duchesne, Wasatch, Uintah, Carbon, and Cache) during the General Election voting period. We provided feedback about vote center accessibility and suggestions for changes that would align the voting experience with federal accessibility standards. We also provided information about accessibility standards to town hall personnel at 12 locations.  We met with the election team and the new county clerk in Salt Lake County providing feedback to them regarding our ballot box access reviews during the 2022 election season. We also provided recommendations for improving the accessibility of the ballot marking device. The team was very receptive, and we look forward to a more collaborative approach to voting preparations with the county in the future. (6)  Overall, we trained 216 election administrators and poll workers.  We want residents of care facilities to have full access to casting their ballot. Care facilities receiving Medicaid funding will regularly assist residents with voter registration. They may also provide information as appropriate about accessible voting equipment options or the availability of electronic ballots. We educated care facility staff re: their responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act. The materials and instruction that we provided include information about: Voter registration, absentee ballots, accessible voting equipment and electronic ballot options, suggestions about how care facilities can help residents access voting equipment. We trained 29 assisted living facility staff during 3 presentations (1 rural).  Electronic Voting The DLC's voting access director provided technical assistance throughout a successful RFP process to select a web-based ballot-marking and delivery system. During Utah's recently completed primary and general elections Utahns with print and other disabilities were able to use their own devices to vote privately and independently from home for the first time. |
| UT | The 2023 Utah elections landscape called for timely responses to attacks on fundamental voting options while pushing forward to expand voting accommodations. Our PAVA team has enjoyed tremendous success in these areas during the past year while continuing to support voters with disabilities as they engage in the electoral process.  STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS The following state complaints were submitted by our PAVA team.  SRID# 2234770 Funding Source: PAVA The DLC submitted a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) complaint on behalf of a client who requested the use of the audio ballot at a Salt Lake County vote center. Unfortunately, poll workers were unable to operate the accessible features of the ballot marking device. Instead, they insisted on reading the ballot aloud, asking the voter to announce her voting choices, and marking the ballot for her. As a result of our complaint, the State Elections Office (SEO) issued an apology, required Salt Lake County to work with the DLC to obtain technical assistance regarding setting up a polling place, provide copies of their training materials to the SEO and the DLC, participate in training that the DLC provided to election administrators across the State, and; contact the voter named in the complaint and a past complainant to ensure that their needs have been addressed. Salt Lake County did comply with these requests and the DLC was able to provide technical assistance regarding how to prepare signage and website information to ensure that the site is more accessible. We also reviewed the poll worker training manual and visited the County during their “Practice makes Perfect” training day. During our November Early Voting visits to the site, we found that all signage suggestions had been implemented. However, according to a complaint from a voter who visited the polling place during the general election, the poll workers still did not know how to initiate the audio ballot when needed.   SRID # 1047203 Funding Source: PAVA The DLC submitted a HAVA complaint on behalf of the client after she experienced difficulties when voting in-person at a Washington County vote center. The client has low vision as well as two neurological diseases. She contacted the county prior to voting to ensure that the accessible options would meet her needs and was reassured that the vote center equipment would be adequate. When she arrived to vote, the text size on the machine was too small and she was not offered the audio option. In order to vote, she had to crouch in a painful squat to see the screen. Because of the positioning of the voting device, she was concerned that other voters and poll workers were witnessing her voting choices. The State Elections Office responded to our complaint by agreeing to all of our resolution requests. They also committed to ensuring that Washington County provides poll workers with proper training prior to the next election. Further, the State confirmed that they are in the procurement process for obtaining an electronic ballot delivery system so that voters with print disabilities may vote at home using their own device.  SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY We had tremendously successful outcomes in the area of systemic advocacy this year. By educating policy makers and collaborating with other voting stakeholders, new policies and accommodations were secured for Utah voters with disabilities.  Signature Match Statute With our advocacy and support, two bills were passed during the legislative session which allow accommodations for voters whose signature with their ballot is unlikely to match because of their disability. Utah votes by mail. Therefore, a voters signature on the mailed ballot serves as a verification of identity when compared with signatures retained electronically from the voter registration form and past elections. When a voter's ballot is involved in the cure process because of a signature problem, the ballot isn't counted until the voter signs an affidavit confirming that he/she voted the ballot. Now, because of the new language in statute, that sworn statement includes a section that allows a voter to initiate a request for an accommodation that would apply in future elections. This process ensures that a voter who’s disability impacts their ability to sign their name consistently will not be repeatedly subject to the cure process and that an alternative means of verifying the voter's identity is put in place.   Attacks on Vote by Mail and Voter Registration Through our work with the Let Utah Vote Coalition, we joined with other organizations to defend voting access during the legislative session. Bills surfaced that once again attacked vote by mail and voter registration options. We tracked progress on these bills, spoke to bill sponsors about their impact on voters with disabilities and provided information to those providing testimony when requested. Those bills failed.  Electronic Ballot Delivery DLC staff participated in the State’s electronic ballot delivery RFP committee. A vendor was chosen, and the contract finalized. The State Elections Office has secured funding for the first two years. This is an incredible step forward for voting access in Utah. Our advocacy plan without a lawsuit was successful. Through persistent efforts to educate election administrators about the rights of voters with disabilities to an equal voting experience and by collaborating with community advocates, every voter in Utah can now vote privately and independently at home.   Defending Vote by Mail Through our work with the Let Utah Vote Coalition, we joined with other organizations to defend voting access during the legislative session. Bills surfaced that once again attacked vote by mail and voter registration options. We tracked progress on these bills, spoke to bill sponsors about their impact on voters with disabilities and provided information to partners who testified in committee meetings.  IMPROVING PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY  Ballot Drop Box Access The DLC staff collected data on 181 drop boxes in 26 counties which concluded an Election 2022 effort to assess 291 drop boxes in every (29) Utah county. The data was compiled and a report, “Utah’s Ballot Boxes, An Accessibility Study” was completed and distributed to election administrators across the State. Some of the primary findings were:  • 58% of the 291 boxes evaluated were not accessible, • 27% of parking locations failed, • 33% had route violations, • 34% failed because of the positioning or method in which the box was installed, • 88% of ramps were inadequate, Since the release of our state-wide report, we have also sent individual reports to 23 of Utah’s 29 counties. County reports detail our findings at each drop box location within a county. The reports show pictures and provide suggestions for resolving access issues. As a result of these reports and our efforts to establish relationships with election administrators in every county, we have provided requested technical assistance at 28 locations.   Vote Center Accessibility 24 vote centers in 16 counties were assessed during the primary election season. Feedback was provided to county personnel on our findings so that they may make adjustments prior to the general election.    EDUCATING ELECTION ADMINSTRATORS AND POLL WORKERS Presentations to Election Administrators During the Fiscal Year, PAVA provided training to 216 poll workers and election administrators. The following provides details about the training efforts. 1) Staff met with election administrators in eleven counties during the November 2022 General Election voting period. We provided feedback about vote center accessibility and suggestions for changes that would align the voting experience with federal accessibility standards. We also provided information about accessibility standards to town hall personnel at 12 locations. 2) In a presentation at the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) Conference, the DLC shared the findings of our ballot drop box study with 48 county clerks and election administrators. We provided suggestions for overcoming the most common access problems and offered technical support as counties make choices about electronic ballot delivery, voting accommodations including signature verification, and ballot box and vote center access.  3) In 2023, the DLC voting advocate met with each of the nine newly elected county clerks and their staff. We provided information about the DLC’s PAVA program and offered technical assistance to support them with preparing for an accessible election.  4) Town personnel at 12 locations where voters deposit a ballot were provided with information about access shortfalls and how to amend them. 5) 77 poll workers received feedback regarding the accessibility of the voting area during our visits to polling places.  EDUCATING VOTERS  Education & Training The DLC educated 774 voters and potential voters through education activities including:  • 18 voting trainings reaching 348 potential voters. Group presentations included: post-high programs, Parkinson’s support groups, Centers for Independent Living consumer groups, assisted living centers, National Federation of the Blind Conference, Digital Government Summit, Disability Rights Action Committee, Utah Assistive Living Council, PAIMI Advisory Council, etc. Voter registration assistance was offered at each presentation. • PAVA provided voting rights information and voter registration opportunities at community events such as: Ferina Latina de Recursos, Stronger Together Events (for Medicaid recipients), Transition Fairs sponsored by school districts, and other community events. • Registered voters at the Utah State Hospital do not have access to ballot and candidate information through typical means such as news stories and the internet. Prior to the 2022 general election then again prior to the August 2023 primary, the DLC provided a booklet to five USH units about candidates and issues on the ballot for individuals who are registered to vote as residents at USH.  Media & Social Media 1974 voters were reached through 4 “Policy Corner” videos, 1 blog post and 14 social media posts.   STAFF TRAINING Voting team members participated in 12 voting focused training webinars. Many were sponsored by the National Disability Rights Network. They included trainings on: surveying polling places, managing data, accessible voting methods, outreach, State voting rights, investigative tools, ADA enforcement, cultural aspects of Native American heritage, etc. |
| VT | PAVA provided a training with Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness on voting rights for people experiencing homelessness, 12 people trained.  PAVA provided an in-person training "Polling Place Accessibility for Town Clerks" with the Vermont Elections Division to town/city clerks on improving accessibility in elections, 120 people trained. |
| WI | STEP 1: Each of three P&A sub-teams (Civil Rights, Schools, Community & Institutions) met to discuss FY 23 goals and priorities and engage in initial conversations about FY 24 goals & priorities. These meetings occurred on June 22 (schools), July 27 (Community & Institutions) and August 2 (Civil Rights).   STEP 2: P&A staff met on August 9, 2023 from 9:30 AM – 3 PM to review team goals and priorities. Attendees were provided materials before the meeting including Goals and Priorities from Funding Year 2022 for PADD, PATBI, PAAT, PAVA and other funding sources. P&A staff generally work in subject-matter focused sub-teams (schools, civil rights, community & institutions including investigations), this process included discussion of, and adoption of, goals and priorities for DRW clients with physical disabilities, mental illness, and/or traumatic brain injury in addition to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Discussion of AT issues was woven throughout the meeting, as was specific focus on serving people with disabilities navigating multiple systems of oppression such as people of color, people who rely on alternate methods of communication or require an interpreter, people living in poverty or who are unstably housed, and survivors of crime. This process also included discussion of data related to priority areas. Case experience and trends were considered.    STEP 3: P&A leadership reviewed the notes from the sub-team meetings, August 9 meeting, examined DAD case data, and considered information received throughout the year during various agency committees and workgroups including: Long Term Care Council (Department of Health Services-DHS), Children’s Long Term Support Advisory Committee (DHS), IRIS Advisory Committee (DHS), Quarterly meetings with DHS, Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and PT/OT & SLP providers (DHS), Children & Youth Committee of the Mental Health Council (DHS), Office of Children’s Mental Health’s Collective Impact Executive Council (DHS, DCF, DPI, DOC), Children Come First Advisory Committee, No Wrong Door Supporting Kids Together Stakeholder Advisory Committee (DHS, DCF, DPI). The coordinator then drafted proposed PADD Goals and Priorities for Funding Year 2023.    STEP 4: P&A Managing attorney drafted Consolidated P&A Goals & Priorities FY 2024 and distributed the draft plan with all members of the P&A team, PAVA team, Managing Attorney of DRW's Victim Advocacy Program, and DRW leadership (Executive Director, Director of Legal Advocacy). P&A Managing Attorney met with each sub-team to discuss proposed consolidated goals and priorities and received suggested edit and comments by email.    STEP 5: Public service announcements ran on Radio Milwaukee inviting listeners to complete a priorities survey on DRW's website. A 12-question survey was posted on DRW's website.   STEP 6: On November 10, 2023, our proposed “Consolidated P&A Goals & Priorities FY 2024” was released for 48-day public comment. It was posted on our website on that date. The document included instructions for submitting public comments and deadline to ensure comments would be considered. Notification was sent through Facebook, Twitter, and to our email listserv on November 10 with reminders on December 4, 14, and 19. We received twelve survey responses, and 0 public comments by email.    STEP 6: We presented our “Consolidated P&A Goals & Priorities” to the Board of People with Developmental Disabilities (Wisconsin’s CDD) at its November meeting and previewed it to all members of the Waisman (Wisconsin's UCEDD) Constituent Advisory Committee at the CAC's October meeting, then sent the plan by email to the CAC.    STEP 7: Made final changes to the Proposed PADD SGP. The primary changes were to emphasize that our commitment to providing self-advocacy assistance, conducting training and outreach in partnership with peers and others with lived experience, and clarifying our commitment to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in the criminal justice system. |
| WV | Nineteen PAVA funded cases were opened and seventeen were closed under this Priority in FY 2023. This is a marked increase from previous fiscal years. DRWV assisted eleven clients in registering to vote or updating their voter registration, assisted four clients with requesting and/or understanding absentee ballots, and educated two other clients about their voting rights. |
| WV | During the summer of FY 2023, DRWV was again able to obtain a legal intern from the West Virginia University (WVU) College of Law. This intern learned about all of the Protection and Advocacy Programs, including PADD, PATBI, PAVA, and PAAT. DRWV’s Legal Director also met with a student attorney from Entrepreneurship and Innovation Law Clinic at the WVU College of Law to share information about our respective services. |
| WV | Events and entities where DRWV staff provided PADD, PATBI, PAVA, and PAAT outreach and/or training presentations between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023, included: • Assisted Living Facilities and a Day Habilitation site in Pineville • Branches Domestic Violence Shelter’s Frontline Lunch Brunch • Celebrating Connection conference panel • Charleston Vandalia Rotary Club • Disability Action Center (twice) • Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center • Eastern Panhandle Reentry Council • Families Conference • Gateway Industries • Highland Clarksburg Hospital • Huntington City Mission Social Workers • Title XIX I/DD Waiver Providers • Jackson County Schools Transition Fair (with a display) • Mason County Reentry Council • Mountain CAP of WV, Inc • National Association of Social Workers WV Conference • National Federal of the Blind WV State Convention • Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification • People First conference (with a display) • Putnam County Aging • Statewide Family Advisory Board Meeting • SW Resources • Telamon • The Op Shop • Wheeling Reentry Council • William R Sharpe, Jr Hospital Social Workers and other staff • WV Secretary of State’s County Clerks Elections Conference  DRWV conducted outreach to the following WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS) offices in FY 2023: • Clarksburg • Huntington • Parkersburg, and returned for new staff • Weirton  DRWV’s outreach display, including PADD, PATBI, PAVA, and PAAT information, was set up and staffed at the following events in FY 2023: • Berkeley County Transition Fair • BridgeValley Community & Technical College Accessibility Resource Fair • Community Conversation & Resource Fair • Community Conversation Reentry Resources • Down Syndrome Network of WV Buddy Walk Vendor Fair (twice) • Independent Living Day at the Capitol • Marion County Schools Transition Fair at the Disability Action Center • Mary C Snow Elementary Parents' Night • Putnam County Aging Program's Senior Picnic • Robert W Jackson Senior conference • Traumatic Brain Injury conference • US Attorney’s Office’s Civil Rights and Social Services Expo • Westbrook Health Services, Inc open house • Westside Community Health Fair • WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Behavioral Health   Outreach Events in:  o Moorefield  o Parkersburg  o Shinnston  o Wheeling • WV State Career Fair  DRWV staff collaborated with WVDRS to conduct outreach and training to staff at Mason County Schools. DRWV staff also collaborated with WVDRS to conduct outreach to staff and management from a transitional living facility on the grounds of a state psychiatric hospital.  Our March 2023 newsletter was written by an individual with a developmental disability in honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. She titled it "What I Want You to Know About People with Developmental Disabilities" and can be found at https://www.drofwv.org/march2023newsletter. |
| WY | In this continuing activity, PAVA educated policy makers regarding the interplay between Wyoming's Guardianship Code and voting rights of persons eligible under PAVA. The Wyoming Election Code bars persons who are "currently adjudicated mentally incompetent" from voting. Under Wyoming's longstanding interpretation of that provision, guardianship orders using the wording "mentally incompetent person" operate as a bar to voting, while guardianship orders using the wording "incompetent person" do not. In practice, the phrases are used randomly in readily available online guardianship forms, leading to the unintended result of disenfranchising people who should be allowed to vote. PAVA has provided educational information to state and county officials regarding the unintended consequence of printed guardianship forms and have participated in a Guardianship Task Force that is involved in recommending changes to Wyoming's Guardianship Code. Based on the relative proportion of persons who have PAVA eligible disabilities and who have guardianships using the forms with "mentally incompetent" language, it is estimated that 273 persons eligible under PAVA could benefit from this advocacy. |
| WY | During the prior fiscal year, PAVA developed a 30 second television spot with the tag line of "Equality Means Accessibility" in which two self-advocates are featured voting. The spot mentions the Help America Vote Act and its requirement for polling places to be physically accessible. The Americans with Disabilities Act is also mentioned, with a highlight regarding the requirement for states to provide accommodations for people with disabilities. The spot includes a shot of a person using a wheelchair and an individual using a service animal to access a polling place. The spot highlights the availability of the P&A voter hotline where people can obtain additional information. The spot was filmed on location at a county office building in which actual election judges were included in the filming. The local County Clerk facilitated PAVA's access to the county building and the county election judges. During this reporting period, a five-week campaign was conducted using the television spot which was run 2,954 times. The television spot was streamed on Roku, Amazon Fire, Play Station, Sling, along with more traditional forms of television viewing. The video was produced with closed captioning. |
| WY | In a previous reporting period, PAVA developed a 30 second radio spot that focused on accessibility in the voting process. During the current reporting period, the radio spot was featured 312 times throughout Wyoming. PAVA developed the tag line, "Equality Means Accessibility" which was the main message of the radio spot. |
| WY | In a previous funding year, a cinema spot was developed featuring PAVA's theme of "Equality Means Accessibility in Voting". During this reporting period, the cinema spot was shown for one month on 72 movie screens in Wyoming. |