



ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM

January 19, 2016

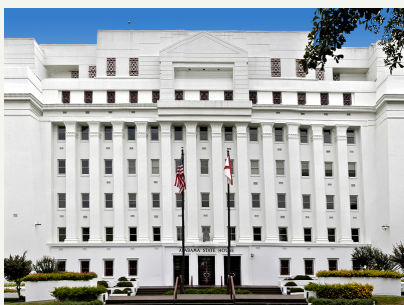
The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nation's federally-funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights.

ADAP is part of the [National Disability Rights Network \(NDRN\)](#).

ADAP's mission is to provide quality, legally-based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities in order to protect, promote and expand their rights.

Find us on the Web
www.adap.net

State Legislature Grappling Again with Budget Shortfalls



Given the significant General Fund budget shortfall, funding the state's FY17 operations is going to be a hot issue for the Alabama legislature when it reconvenes on February 2. In preparation for the upcoming regular session, budget hearings were held on January 12 and 13. During these hearings, Commissioners of the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Departments of Corrections, Mental Health, Human Resources, and Senior Services – all agencies which provide significant services to persons with disabilities – answered difficult questions about their Departments' budget proposals. To read more, click [here](#).



Protecting Basic Medical Services to Incarcerated Persons with Disabilities

Read [more](#) about ADAP's lawsuit against the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) and the evidence ADAP and its litigation partners have uncovered that shows a wholesale failure to provide minimally adequate medical care for inmates in the ADOC.

New Federal School Law and its Impact on Students with Disabilities: Opportunity Coming for Parent Input

President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, P.L. 114-95) on December 10, 2015. This bill reauthorizes and amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka No Child Left Behind Act). Learn [more](#) about how the bill supports outcomes and accountability for students with disabilities.

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting on January 20

Alabama's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) will meet on Wednesday, January 20 starting at 9:30 AM at the Alabama Industrial Development Training Center (AIDT), 15 Technology Court in Montgomery. An agenda hasn't been released but there will likely be discussions about proposed changes to the due process regulations as well as the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report. Meeting information, including instructions on how to participate via web streaming, can be found [here](#).



Receive Social Security Disability Benefits and Want to Work?

Learn how working affects cash disability benefits and Medicare/Medicaid in a webinar sponsored by the Social Security Administration (SSA) on Wednesday, January 27 from 2 – 3:30 PM CST. The webinar, called “[Ticket to Work: Debunking the Three Biggest Myths about Disability Benefits and Work](#)” will help you:

- Find out how medical reviews are put on hold while participating in Ticket to Work.
- Find out how you can go back on cash benefits without reapplying if your job does not work out.
- Get details on how you can keep your Medicare or Medicaid after your cash benefits end due to work.

Register [online](#) or by calling 1-866-968-7842 (TTY: 1-866-833-2967).

ADAP provides adults and older youth with disabilities free legal services to help remove barriers to working through its [Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security \(PABSS\)](#) program. If you have questions or want to schedule an intake regarding an employment issue, contact ADAP at (800) 826-1675.



Vote!

By exercising your right to vote, you have the amazing opportunity to select our elected officials and voice your support of or opposition to state and local ballot questions. One important voting deadline is quickly approaching: to vote in Alabama's primary election on March 1, 2016, you must register to vote by February 12 (hand-delivery of registration) or February 13 (postmark on registration form). Check out the [2016 Alabama Voter's Guide](#) to learn more about voting eligibility requirements and procedures.

ADAP is looking for volunteers to complete a very short survey about the accessibility of their polling site when they vote in the March 1 primary election. Be on the lookout for more information about this important project done under ADAP's [Protection and Advocacy for Voter](#)

[Accessibility](#) (PAVA) program, which seeks to ensure all voters have fair and equal access to the voting process.

ADAP's Advisory Councils Begin Work

Members of ADAP's PADD and PAIMI advisory councils convened for their first meeting of the year at a council orientation on Friday, January 8 in Birmingham. Twelve people – consumers, family members, and advocacy stakeholders from across the state



– make up each council. To contact the council member in your area, click [here](#). ADAP's next council meeting will be held on Friday, February 12 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Tuscaloosa County Extension Office Auditorium at 2501 7th Street, Tuscaloosa. The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Vicki Hubbard at ADAP at (205) 348-4928.

2016 Respect and Hope Awards

The Office of Consumer Relations of the Alabama Department of Mental Health will award its 2016 Respect and Hope awards at the annual Alabama Institute for Recovery Conference on Monday, April 18 at Shocco Springs. The Respect Award recognizes individuals who are consistently respectful and supportive to individuals with mental illness. The Hope Award is awarded to an individual or organization for their statewide efforts to unify and benefit the various stakeholders in the mental illness arena in Alabama. To nominate someone for one of these awards, [click here](#) for more information. Nominations are due by March 10.

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