

“Your program has enriched my life with many opportunities that I would not have experienced without your services.” — V.W.



We serve persons with disabilities and their families by assisting each individual with immediate information and referral needs and/or by developing an independent living plan.

This process is driven by the individual consumer. We respond to the needs identified by consumers through instilling hope and helping them develop an action plan to reach their goal(s).

A unique fact about us is that we give preferential hiring to persons with disabilities, and at any time at least 50% of our employees and board members are persons with a disability. This helps us to maintain our focus on providing consumer directed services.



Ability1st provides a range of direct individual services that include specialized equipment and supplies, help obtaining basic life needs such as housing, entitlement benefits and medical treatment, as well as offering life skills training, advocacy and peer support.

Ability1st also provides group services that includes a support group for persons with Mental Illness, for Caregivers of aging family members, and for women who have been the victim of domestic violence. Other group opportunities include quit smoking classes, sign language classes and career readiness activities for high school students enrolled in our High School High Tech program.

Most of our services are free, regardless of income. Some programs have specific criteria and target persons with very low income. For example, we have two leasing assistance programs that serve chronically homeless persons with disabilities or families with a disabled parent. Support services, including help applying for benefits ensure these individuals are connected to the appropriate community resources so that permanent housing is sustained.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Each year:

- Over 150 crime victims with disabilities receive individual case management and counseling to overcome that trauma.
- At least 55 students with disabilities in three counties receive career counseling, work skills and self-advocacy training.
- Approximately 4,000 persons are provided direct information and referral assistance.
- Over 500 community members volunteer their time and talent to *Ability1st* which is valued at over \$150,000!
- More than 98% of consumers served by *Ability1st* report satisfaction with services and report they were treated with courtesy and respect.
- At least 500 persons with physical disabilities receive loans of durable medical equipment or medical supplies.
- Over 90% of chronically homeless persons placed in our supportive housing assistance program are able to remain in stable housing.