



## HELPFUL ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

Although there is only one PLAN of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Inc., there are many public agencies and private organizations that provide a broad array of services and information for individuals with disabilities and their families. Following are lists of many (but not all) of those organizations and agencies; first those based in Massachusetts, then those based in Rhode Island. Please contact them directly (each organization/agency name below is linked to its web site) to learn about the services and expertise they provide. Do not rely solely on our descriptions. An abbreviated resource key is just below.

<b>RESOURCE TYPE</b>	<b>ABBREVIATION</b>
Advocacy	<b>ADV</b>
Assistive Technology & Adaptive Equipment	<b>AT</b>
Family Support	<b>SUPP</b>
Housing	<b>HOUS</b>
Information & Referral Services	<b>I &amp; R</b>
Insurance	<b>INS</b>
Legal Services	<b>LGL</b>
Recreation & Arts	<b>REC</b>
Resources for specific conditions and disabilities	<b>SC</b>
State Agencies	<b>GOV</b>
Transition to Adulthood Programs	<b>TR</b>

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ADV: Advocacy, AT: Assistive Technology & Adaptive Equipment, SUPP: Family Support, HOUS: Housing, I&R: Information & Referral Services, INS: Insurance, LGL: Legal Services, REC: Recreation & Arts, SC: Resources for Specific Conditions & Disabilities, GOV: State Agencies, TR: Transition to Adulthood Programs

## MASSACHUSETTS

SC, I&R,ADV,SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>AANE: Asperger/Autism Network</u></a> Asperger/Autism Network (AANE) works with individuals, families, and professionals to help people with Asperger Syndrome and similar autism spectrum profiles build meaningful, connected lives. Provides information, education, community, support, and advocacy.</p>
SC, I&R, SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>Alzheimer's Association: MA/NH Chapter</u></a> Mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.</p>
ADV, I&R, TR, SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>ARC of MA</u></a> Mission is to enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Provides advocacy of supports and services based in the community.</p>
I&R,GOV, SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>Community Support Line</u></a> Toll-free statewide Community Support Line by the Division for Children &amp; Youth with Special Health Needs of the MA Department of Public Health, providing information, technical assistance and resources for families and providers (examples: eligibility for public programs, state and community-based resources)</p>
ADV, LGL	<p><a href="#"><u>Disability Law Center of MA</u></a> Provides legal advocacy on disability issues that promote the fundamental rights of people with disabilities to participate fully and equally in social and economic life of MA.</p>
I&R	<p><a href="#"><u>Disability Resource Network</u></a> Free information, referral, and consultation service for families, professionals, and people with a wide range of disabilities, helping them connect with programs / services that promote full participation in the community. Resource information includes education, vocational training, housing, finances, religious life, recreation, and other aspects of community living.</p>

[Easter Seals of MA](#)  
ADV, I&R, AT, TR, REC, SUPP  
Provides services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and play in their communities. Services for adults, including veterans, youth and children with assistive technology, medical rehabilitation, recreational and employment programs.

[Federation for Children with Special Needs](#)  
I&R, TR, SUPP  
Provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners, and their communities. Encourages full participation in community life by all people, especially those with disabilities.

[MA Family TIES](#)  
I&R, SUPP  
Provides information and referral services, emotional support, and trainings to parents of children and youth with special needs. Offers a comprehensive resource directory, updated annually, covering local, state and national resources.

[MA Family Voices](#)  
I&R, SUPP  
Based at the Federation, a state chapter of a national grassroots organization of families, friends and professionals who share a common concern for children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. Provides families with tools to make informed decisions, advocates for improved public and private policies, builds partnerships among professionals and families, and serves as a trusted resource on health care.

[MA Down Syndrome Congress](#)  
SC, I&R, ADV, TR, REC  
Aims to ensure individuals with Down syndrome are valued, included, and given opportunities to pursue fulfilling lives by providing information, networking opportunities, and advocacy for people with Down syndrome and their families, educators, health care professionals, and the community-at-large.

[Independent Living Centers of MA](#)  
ADV, I&R, SUPP, HOUS  
Private, nonprofit, consumer-controlled, community-based organizations providing services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities. Goal is twofold; to create opportunities to promote independence, and to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum level of independent functioning within their families and/or communities. There are 11 different ILCs across the Commonwealth, each serving designated communities.

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I&R INDEX helps people with disabilities find the information they need, collecting and updating information on programs, providers and services in MA for people with disabilities. A project of the [Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center](#) at the [University of Massachusetts Medical School](#).

[MA Commission for the Blind](#)

GOV Provides rehabilitation and social services to blind individuals, with goals of independence and full community participation.

[MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

GOV Provides or helps to access direct specialized services, such as case management, interpreter services, technology services, and independent living.

[MA Department of Developmental Services](#)

GOV Dedicated to creating, in partnership with others, opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities.

[Massachusetts Department of Mental Health](#)

GOV Provides access to services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages, enabling them to live, work and participate in their communities.

[MA Department of Public Health: Family Initiatives](#)

GOV Designed and staffed by parents of children who have received Early Intervention services and/or have special health care needs, disabilities or chronic illnesses. Works regionally across the Commonwealth to provide supports to families including: Education, training and leadership development, information and referral services, parent-to-parent support and networking and partnership opportunities.

[MassHealth](#)

GOV, INS In MA, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are combined into one program, called MassHealth. Members may be eligible for no or low-cost doctors’ visits, prescription drugs, hospital stays, and many other services.

[MA Rehabilitation Commission](#)

GOV Promotes equality, empowerment and independence of individuals with disabilities. Responsible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Community Living Services, and eligibility determination for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefits programs.



- [National Alliance on Mental Illness: MA Chapter](#)  
SC, I&R, A, SUPP A resource for individuals and families facing the challenges of mental illness, providing free mental health family-based education, family and peer support and grassroots advocacy.
- [Parent/Professional Advocacy League](#)  
SC, A, I&R, SUPP A statewide family organization dedicated to improving the mental health and wellbeing of children, youth and families through education, advocacy and partnership.
- [Specialized Housing, Inc.](#)  
HOU Creates and manages supportive housing opportunities for adults with disabilities in condominiums and apartments in the greater Boston area and other locations in New England and in the United States. Serves adults with developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and some physical disabilities.
- [United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Boston](#)  
SC, I&R, SUPP Committed to advancing the independence, full citizenship and productivity of people with disabilities through programs and services to people with disabilities and their families. Sixty-five percent of those served have disabilities other than cerebral palsy, such as spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain disorder and disabilities associated with aging.

## RHODE ISLAND

- [Access Point RI](#)  
HOU, SUPP, REC Nonprofit human services organization for people with developmental disabilities. Adult services include a residential program, day enrichment, employment services, recreational and vocational training. For children and youth, offerings include clinical services and a small, year-round private special education school, which also has an integrated early childhood program.
- [Accessible RI](#)  
I&R Website provides guide to accessible restaurants, museums, cinemas and cultural sites in RI.
- [Advocates in Action](#)  
ADV Independent, statewide, nonprofit self-advocacy organization created by a coalition of Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities to educate and empower people with developmental disabilities.
- [Alzheimer's Association: RI Chapter](#)  
SC, ADV, I&R, SUPP Provides education, personal support and advocacy around key issues of concern to people affected by Alzheimer's and related disorders.
- [ATE – RI Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program](#)  
AT Provides demonstrations, training and long-term loan and device reutilization services of specialized telephone equipment to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech impairment, or who suffer from neuromuscular damage or disease, which hinders them from using a standard telephone.
- [The Arc of Blackstone Valley](#)  
ADV, SUPP, HOU, REC Principle service organization for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Blackstone Valley area. Offers residential and family services as well as vocational, therapeutic, recreational and advocacy programs.
- [The Arc of Northern RI](#) (The Homestead Group)  
SUPP, HOU Not-for-profit human service agency providing supports and services for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Includes Habilitative Services Division, Residential Services Division, and an Independent Living Services Program.

SC, I&R, SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>Autism Society of America: RI Chapter</u></a></p> <p>Seeks to enhance community awareness, acceptance, and participation of individuals with autism; monitor legislative activity; and maintain a supportive, informative network.</p>
HOU	<p><a href="#"><u>Avatar Residential</u></a></p> <p>A certified provider of residential services to people who have developmental disabilities. Also a certified placement agency for shared living.</p>
HOU	<p><a href="#"><u>Bridges</u></a></p> <p>A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities to live the life they choose. Operates 15 residences throughout Southern RI, vocational services, and day and evening activities.</p>
SUPP	<p><a href="#"><u>The Corliss Institute</u></a></p> <p>Community-based agency, in Warren, RI, which serves adults with developmental and other disabilities, including those with limited vision and/or hearing, cognitive disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, and emotional and behavioral disorders. Programs include home-based services, supports in a residential program, and educational activities for daily living skills in the day program.</p>
HOU, ADV	<p><a href="#"><u>Fogarty Center</u></a></p> <p>Serves children and adults with developmental disabilities in the Greater Providence Metropolitan area through day, residential, advocacy and childcare programs.</p>
HOU	<p><a href="#"><u>The Groden Network</u></a></p> <p>The Groden Center offers a day program for children and youth ages 3 through 21, and a residential program for adolescents age 12 through 21. Served are individuals with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, pervasive developmental disorders, behavioral disorders, serious communication and learning disabilities, and dual-diagnosed cognitive and mental health disorders.</p>
HOU	<p><a href="#"><u>Living in Fulfilling Environments, Inc. (L.I.F.E)</u></a></p> <p>Operate fourteen 24-hour supportive group home residencies throughout RI in addition to numerous recreational, skill-building, and vocational opportunities.</p>

- [Living Innovations](#)
- SUPP Provides support for individuals with long-term illnesses or developmental disabilities and for children with health and behavioral needs. Goals are for individuals to stay at home, and to continue to be vibrant participants in the life of their community.
- [Looking Upwards](#)
- SUPP Private, nonprofit agency offering a multidisciplinary array of services to adults with developmental disabilities and children with special healthcare needs. Includes direct support workers, nurses, physical therapists, speech / language pathologists, occupational therapists, behavioral consultants, family / individual therapists, service coordinators and support staff.
- [James L. Maher Center](#)
- SUPP, HOU, REC Provides support and opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities, including residential and day programs, vocational/educational and therapeutic services, transportation, community employment and recreation activities.
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness: RI Chapter](#)
- SC, I&R, ADV, SUPP Independent grassroots, nonprofit membership organization, providing support to people with mental illness, their family and friends, educating professionals and the public about mental illness, and advocating for improved services for all people with mental illness.
- [Ocean State Center for Independent Living](#)
- I&R, SUPP Non-residential, consumer-driven, community-based, cross-disability, nonprofit organization, providing a range of independent living services to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities and to promote integration into the community.
- [Ocean State Community Resources](#)
- HOU, SUPP Provides services and supports to adults and children with developmental and other disabilities. Adult services include 24-hour community-based living, supervised apartments, vocational and day supports, respite, and self-directed supports. For children, programs include home-based therapeutic services, personal assistance support services and respite.
- [Opportunities Unlimited](#)
- HOU, SUPP Provides community-based day services, supported employment, family support, supported living, 24-hour supported living services, clinical services, case management and transportation.



[Perspectives Corporation](#)

HOU, SUPP.  
TR A multi-faceted agency providing support to youth and adults with developmental, intellectual, and other disabilities. Adult Services include: Residential, shared-living arrangements, and day services. Youth and Family programs include: home-based therapeutic services, early intensive behavioral intervention, personal assistance and support, deaf and hard-of-hearing services, transitional school services, and residential services.

[Re-Focus](#)

HOU, REC A nonprofit human service agency, which offers adults with differing physical and developmental needs supported living programs in a family-like atmosphere. ReFocus Community Center, in Providence, provides younger and more active individuals with educational programs and recreational activities.

[RI Assistive Technology Access Partnership](#)

AT, I&R Designed as a statewide partnership of organizations, each with a targeted assistive technology focus, working together to improve access to and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. Primary initiatives include device demonstration, loan, reuse and training, public awareness, collaboration, information and referral.

[RI Dept. of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals](#)

GOV State agency administers a system of care to provide services to RI residents with mental health and substance abuse issues, developmental disabilities, and chronic long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. Programs include long-term hospital care; mental health and psychiatric services; substance abuse prevention, education and drug and alcohol treatment services; and residential, day programs and support services for people with developmental disabilities.

[RI Department of Human Services](#)

GOV Offers programs for the elderly and for those with disabilities. A [resource directory](#) is published for the elderly. The [Department's Office of Rehabilitation Services](#) has programs for the blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, students with disabilities transitioning to adult life, and those seeking employment. The Department operates the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs, which provides care and support for the State's elderly population and their families.

[Rhode Island Disability Law Center](#)

LGL Provides free legal assistance to persons with disabilities. Services include individual representation to protect rights or to secure benefits and services; self-help information; educational programs; and administrative and legislative advocacy.

[RI Parent Information Network](#)

ADV, I&R, SUPP Assists individuals, parents, families, and children in achieving their goals for health, education, and socio-economic wellbeing by providing information, training, education, support and advocacy for person/family-centered care and system change. This organization is the RI Family Voices affiliate and the Family-to-Family Health Information Center.

[Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities](#)

Housed at RI College, offers a number of programs for families, including:

I&R, TR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Supports Navigator, providing youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and allies guidance to plan for life after high school graduation</li> </ul>
I&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood topical workshops and consultation</li> </ul>
ADV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Advocate for students with disabilities in the care of the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families, whose parents are not available to act on their behalf</li> </ul>
SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI Services to Children and Youth with Dual Sensory Impairments, providing technical assistance to educational teams and families for children and youth with deaf-blindness, birth to age 22</li> </ul>
SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RI Vision Education and Services Program provides teaching and consultation services to children who are blind or visually impaired, their families and educational staff</li> </ul>
SUPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Support Specialist program is a culturally sensitive approach to helping families led by a parent/s with cognitive challenges.</li> </ul>

[TechACCESS of Rhode Island](#)

AT Supports people with disabilities, of all ages, through the use of technology.

[J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center](#)

RES. REC. SC Promotes enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Comprehensive services include Early Intervention, Pathways Strategic Teaching Center's school for children with autism, enhancement of daily living skills and community participation through community support services and home-based children services, work opportunities through day habilitation and supported employment, residential and community living, recreation and leisure services, and respite and family support.



SC, SUPP      [United Cerebral Palsy of RI](#)  
Dedicated to advancing the independence, productivity and full citizenship of individuals with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Offering supports for children and adults, from home-based therapeutic services to community-based activities and supported living.