

New Mexico State Team



Self-Advocacy organizations that exist in New Mexico and their major activities or functions

- Center for Self Advocacy – Education and Self-Advocacy Training
- People First of New Mexico – Public Policy Advocacy Group
- El Poder en Accion – Self-Advocacy Training and Presentations
- Advisory Council on Quality – Consumer Advisory/Advocacy
- Grassroots Leaders – Public Policy Advocacy
- Youth Leaders Group – Public Policy Advocacy

Resources that exist for the self-advocacy organizations

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
Center for Self Advocacy	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council	Funding
People First of New Mexico	The Arc of New Mexico	Leadership and Fiscal support
El Poder en Accion	The Arc of New Mexico	Leadership and fiscal support
Advisory Council on Quality	Developmental Disability Supports Division	Opportunity to voice their opinion about services
Youth Leaders Group	Gov. Commission on Disability	Funding and Support
Grassroots Leaders	Developmental Disabilities Planning Council	Funding

Things that work in New Mexico for self-advocacy organizations

- Outreach by self-advocates to students, self-advocates, and agencies through training.
- Strong participation by self-advocates in consumer services (such as the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation).
- Strong involvement in policy making.
- Strong advocacy groups (such as Disability Rights New Mexico).
- Having a southern New Mexico organization doing bilingual outreach and developing self advocates.
- Mi Via Self Directed Waiver
- Partnerships with universities
- Organizations working well together to get things done.

Some challenges or struggles that New Mexico self-advocacy organizations have faced

- Limited collaboration between Native American groups and other groups.
- Rural layout of the state means we have not reached potential self advocates or addressed issues in many areas.
- Budget cuts affect both agencies and important programs (SSI and Medicaid).
- Lack of strong independent funding sources (We rely heavily on agencies for our funding).
- Need for individualized accommodations.
- Public Education Department as a whole is hesitant to make necessary changes to help people with disabilities (and without disabilities).

Things we are most proud of in New Mexico

- Numerous letter writing campaigns on issues as diverse as the marriage penalty, SSI, SSDI, and keeping funding for organizations such as the Center for Self Advocacy.
- Senate Memorial 47 in 2007 at state legislature passed 32 – 0.
- Education and outreach in multiple locations throughout the state (especially to middle and high school students).
- Connections with our policy makers.
- School to Community Transition
- Club Hope for Disability Awareness
- Stop the R-Word campaign.
- Strong group of self advocates that keeps growing.

Goals and dreams New Mexico has for self-advocacy

- Reform of the SI/SSDI system.
- Elimination of the Marriage Penalty.
- Restore the necessary funding to Medicaid and SSI.
- End the wait list for the DD waiver or reduce it significantly.
- Better preparation for independent living and decision making for students coming out of the public school system.
- Better paying and better tenured jobs.
- Media and outreach presentations by youth leaders to educate the public on disabilities.
- Presence in the media (such as Advo Grrl Meets World TV show or even news stories).
- Increase funding in rural parts of the state for self advocacy activities

- Marilyn Martinez – People First of New Mexico, UNM Center for Development and Disability Consumer Advisory Board, SABE, and ACQ.
- Daniel Ekman – New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy and SABE.
- Barbara Ibanez – UNM Center for Development and Disability and UECDD.
- Connie DeHerrera – New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy and SABE.
- Steve Scarton – ARC of New Mexico, People First of New Mexico and SABE.
- Amira Rasheed – People First of New Mexico and SABE.
- Kalee Brown – National Youth Leadership Network and San Juan Center for Independence
- Esther Trujillo – People First of New Mexico and SABE
- Adam Shand – Grassroots, New Mexico Center for Self Advocacy, and SABE.
- Sergio Resendiz – El Poder en Accion, The Arc of NM in Anthony, and SABE.
- Tony Chavez – Advocate Senior Trainer, People First of New Mexico, ACQ, and SABE.