

Protection & Advocacy System Programs

Federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems in each state and territory provide **protection** of the rights of persons with disabilities through legally based **advocacy**. Collectively, the P&A/CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD)

- ▶ created by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (DD) Act of 1975
- ▶ requires P&As to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies under all applicable federal and state laws to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities
- ▶ administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

- ▶ established as a mandatory program by the 1984 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act
- ▶ services include assistance in pursuing administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of persons receiving or seeking services under the Rehabilitation Act
- ▶ administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)

- ▶ established by the PAIMI Act of 1986, agencies mandated to
 - protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illness; and
 - investigate abuse and neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illness.
- ▶ administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)

- ▶ established by Congress as a national program under the Rehabilitation Act in 1993
- ▶ established to protect and advocate for the legal and human rights of persons not covered by other programs – such as those with visual or hearing impairments or those with physical disabilities acquired as an adult
- ▶ administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)

- ▶ created in 1994 when Congress expanded the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act)
- ▶ established to “assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in accessing technology devices and assistive technology services” through case management, legal representation, and self-advocacy training
- ▶ administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education

Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

- ▶ created by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999
- ▶ established to assist social security beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about receiving vocational rehabilitation and employment services; and to provide advocacy or other related services that beneficiaries may need to secure or regain gainful employment
- ▶ administered by the Social Security Administration

Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

- ▶ created by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act authorized as part of the Children’s Health Act of 2000
- ▶ provides advocacy services, information and referral, and self-advocacy training to individuals who face a loss of legal rights as a direct result of TBI; and works to increase and improve systems of support for people impacted by TBI
- ▶ administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA)

- ▶ created in 2002 when Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
- ▶ P&As seek to secure election access for a wide range of individuals with disabilities – including, but not limited to, individuals with mental, sensory, and physical disabilities – pursuant to Congress’ broad mandate to “ensure the full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places”
- ▶ administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services