



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Native American Disability Law Center (Law Center) is a non-profit organization that provides free legal services to Native Americans with disabilities. Every year the Law Center reviews its Statement of Objectives and Priorities to insure that we are best serving the needs of our client community. We are seeking public comment by October 7, 2011. You can comment by calling us at 1-800-862-7271 or by emailing us at info@natedisabilitylaw.org Thank you for your interest and support for the Law Center.

PROPOSED Statement of Objectives & Priorities October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

Priority A: Community Based Services

- Objective 1: Develop a resource guide for the community services available for Hopis with disabilities.
- Objective 2: Advocate to increase accessibility of public transit services.
- Objective 3: Advocate for increased physical access to public buildings and polling locations.

Priority B: Abuse and Neglect

- Objective 1: Monitor the investigation by the appropriate agency of all reported incidents of abuse and neglect.
- Objective 2: Represent children in abuse & neglect cases as appointed by relevant courts.
- Objective 3: Advocate for improved statutory protections for adults with disabilities.
- Objective 4: Provide information regarding rights and services to individuals living in group homes & institutions on the reservation by visiting them on a quarterly basis.

Priority C: Employment

- Objective 1: Increase awareness of vocational rehabilitation services by:
 - a. distributing informational brochures and
 - b. provide training on employment opportunities and supports for 30 people receiving Social Security benefits.

Objective 2: Research Navajo and Hopi Tribal policies regarding employment of people with disabilities and advocate for preferential hiring.

Objective 4: Provide direct assistance to individuals with disabilities, who are currently receiving Social Security benefits, in their efforts to obtain appropriate vocational rehabilitation services.

Objective 5: Assist one (1) individual with disabilities, who is currently receiving Social Security benefits, and is being discriminated against, in his effort to return to work.

Priority D: Special Education

Objective 1: Provide two (2) trainings on education rights to parent support groups or parents of children with disabilities reaching 300 individuals.

Objective 2: Provide technical assistance to the parents or guardians of twenty (20) children with disabilities to empower them to advocate for their children to obtain and receive appropriate education services in their community and in the least restrictive environment.

Objective 3: Provide direct representation in meetings and other informal settings for fifteen (15) children with disabilities who are not receiving a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Objective 4: Provide direct representation in administrative proceedings for ten (10) children with disabilities who are not receiving a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Priority E: Community Awareness

Objective 1: Work with other disability advocacy organizations to address systemic discrimination toward individuals with disabilities.

Objective 2: Develop and present awareness curriculum for elementary school students.

Objective 3: Develop and present a Native American leadership curriculum for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Objective 4: Develop a media campaign to increase community awareness of the needs of Native Americans with disabilities.

Priority F: Government Benefits

Objective 1: Assist individuals with disabilities with understanding and completing the application process for benefits provided by the Social Security Administration.

Objective 2: Provide direct representation for forty (40) individuals with disabilities in their efforts to obtain benefits provided by the Social Security Administration.

Priority G: Housing

Objective 1: Advocate for simplified Navajo and Hopi housing application procedures and policies that accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.

Objective 2: Assist 7 individuals with developmental disabilities in their efforts to obtain public housing, when they have been denied housing or reasonable accommodations because of their disability.