



## Administration on Developmental Disabilities



# Health

## FY 2008 Performance Highlights

Obtaining quality health care services can present challenges for people with developmental disabilities. Individuals may require support when filling out insurance forms, filing claims, or making medical decisions. They may need assistance in the sometimes overwhelming process of securing transportation to and from health care services or finding a qualified medical professional with the training to work effectively with individuals with disabilities. Through the initiatives of grantees, people with developmental disabilities are receiving medical services that meet their needs, thereby improving not only their health, but the quality of their lives.

- Through the work of 61 UCEDD in FY 2008, 506,289 people participated in activities that allowed individuals with developmental disabilities to acquire the knowledge and skills to gain access to appropriate health services.
- Council activities in 30 States increased health care availability for 14,480 individuals by educating health professionals on the needs of people with developmental disabilities, teaching self advocacy, and encouraging facility accessibility conversions.
- A total of 52 P&As increased access to affordable health care for 1,835 individuals with developmental disabilities in by providing them with advice, advocacy training, legal intervention, or other forms of assistance.

The Pennsylvania P&A received a call from Caroline, an adult woman with disabilities who had medical issues that required follow-up testing. When Caroline went to the hospital for the tests, medical staff insisted that a guardian sign off on the medical procedures, which Caroline fully understood. In addition, the procedures were very low risk. There was no reason why Caroline could not sign off on the procedures herself, maintaining her independence. When Caroline and her mother contacted the P&A, the advocate advised Caroline that she had a variety of options available to her. The advocate referred her to the P&A's website to download information about guardianship and power of attorney, and suggested that Caroline share them with the hospital. As a result of these simple actions, Caroline was able to make her own medical decisions without a guardian, and was empowered to advocate for herself in the future.