



ADMINISTRATION ON
INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<http://transition.acf.hhs.gov/programs/aidd>

Fact Sheet: Protection and Advocacy Systems

Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) work at the state level to protect individuals with developmental disabilities by empowering them and advocating on their behalf. There are 57 P&As in the United States and its territories, and all are independent of service-providing agencies within their states.

Along with the other Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities grantees, P&As are dedicated to the ongoing fight for the personal and civil rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. P&As provide legal support to traditionally unserved or underserved populations to help them navigate the legal system to achieve resolution and encourage systems change. P&As ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to exercise their rights to make choices, contribute to society and live independently.

Beyond Litigation

While their focus is most often legal, P&As also engage in a full range of other efforts to promote the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

P&As often provide information and referrals, as well as training and technical assistance to service providers, state legislators and other policymakers. They also conduct self-advocacy trainings and raise public awareness of legal and social issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Working Toward Inclusive Education and Independent Living

P&As provide substantial advocacy and legal services on educational issues, and work to ensure that students receive an appropriate education in an inclusive setting.

P&As have also made great strides in increasing the opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to make decisions for themselves about where and with whom they live.

Olmstead and Other Cases

P&As have been involved in a significant number of landmark cases and work closely with other entities, especially State Councils on Developmental Disabilities and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. P&As work to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities, and to ensure that they receive services in the most integrated setting possible.

In FY 2011, P&As:

- Served 21,374 individual clients
- Remedied 9,470 cases of complaints of abuse, neglect, discrimination, or rights violations
- Helped 6,580 students receive education and support to reach their educational goals