



## Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

### **PRIORITIES**

Fiscal Year 2023

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) protects and promotes the civil rights of children and adults with physical, cognitive, and mental health disabilities in Alabama. We are Alabama's only statewide, cross-disability, comprehensive legal advocacy organization. We believe that persons with disabilities are entitled to equal access to the opportunities afforded to all members of American society.

Annually, ADAP solicits input from persons with disabilities, their families, and other members of the disability community to identify priority issue areas on which we should focus. These priority issues frame the advocacy services that we undertake and to which we allocate ADAP's resources. Our priorities for the fiscal year 2023 are:

#### **PROTECTION FROM ABUSE & NEGLECT**

Individuals with disabilities will be free from abuse and neglect and live in healthier, safer or otherwise improved facility or community settings.

#### **COMMUNITY ACCESS**

Individuals with disabilities will have access to appropriate and individualized community services, including assistive technology, which will enhance their ability to live independently.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

Persons with disabilities will have meaningful access to integrated employment and be paid at least minimum wage.

#### **ALTERNATIVE DECISION-MAKING**

With needed supports, individuals with disabilities will be able to make everyday decisions about their lives, including matters related to where they live, how their money is managed, and their healthcare.

#### **EDUCATION**

Youth with disabilities will be provided a free appropriate public education in their least restrictive environment to move them toward independent living and, depending on their individual goals, secondary schooling or employment upon graduation.

#### **VOTING**

Individuals with disabilities will be given equal opportunity to register to vote and to vote privately and independently.

#### **FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES**

Individuals with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits administered by a representative payee will be free from financial exploitation.

#### **ELDER ADVOCACY**

Older Alabamians with disabilities will have access to services that support community integration, individualized planning, and self-determination.