

Advocacy/ Case Management

The Arc of Larimer County

- Address:** The Arc of the United States
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 701
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 78302229
- Local:** The Arc of Larimer County
109 Coronado Ct., Bldg. 7
Ft. Collins, CO 80525
(970) 204-6991
- Website:** www.thearc.org
www.thearcofco.org
www.arclc.org
- Purpose:** The Arc of Larimer County is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advocacy of all individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. The Arc of Larimer County exists to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in Larimer County make their own life choices and that their voices will be heard and respected. The Arc also works to see that individuals with developmental disabilities are included in every aspect of community life as respected, contributing, successful, and equal community members. The vision of The Arc of Larimer County includes; choices for paid community employment, supported inclusive education, community wide social and recreational activities, religious or spiritual community involvement and community living.
- Eligibility:** Services are available to Larimer County residents who have a developmental disability. Family members are also able to access services. Services are at no cost, however there are membership enrollment options of if one so desires.
- Services:** The Arc of Larimer County offers advocacy services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families at no cost. Advocacy services include: attendance at adult program staffing (residential and or day program), attendance at IEP's and all school staffing, dispute resolution and mediation, assistance with developing a case strategy, assistance with the filing of formal appeals/complaints, collaboration with other agencies and professionals and referrals to other agencies and services.
- Application:** Call to arrange services.

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The Client Assistance Program (CAP)

- Address:** Colorado Client Assistance Program
455 Sherman Street, Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 722-0300 Voice/TTY (303) 722-3619 TTY
- Purpose:** The Client Assistance Program (CAP) assists individuals with disabilities who are seeking or receiving services from the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. CAP exists to ensure that effective communication takes place between counselors and service providers and the individuals accessing services, to advocate for an adequate number of vendors to provide services, to ensure that consumers who are not required to participate financially in the cost of their services and to monitor the implementation of the new DVR self-employment policy.
- Eligibility:** CAP advocacy services are available to individuals with disabilities who are seeking or receiving services from the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and who find that along the way of accessing DVR services that they need assistance with becoming eligible for rehabilitation services, getting agreement on their choice of a vocational goal, or obtaining specific services to meet that goal.
- Services:** Advocacy and consultation for individuals interacting with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Application:** Call to arrange CAP advocacy services and complete intake procedures. Referrals to local CAP providers may be provided upon the initial inquiry call.

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The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

- Address:** The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
455 Sherman Street, Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203-4403
(303) 722-0300 Voice/TTY (303) 722-3619 TTY
- Website:** www.thelegalcenter.org
- Purpose:** The Legal Center exists to provide federally-mandated protection and advocacy to individuals with disabilities in Colorado. They seek to protect the human, civil and legal rights of people with mental and physical disabilities, people with HIV, and older people throughout Colorado.
- Eligibility:** The Legal Center provides services based on an established criteria for representation and priorities for services. Representation is not provided in cases where legal representation is already available. Interested individuals should call to inquire about eligibility for services and representation.
- Services:** The Legal Center works with teachers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, mental health and developmental disability providers, nursing home staff, vocational rehabilitation specialists, housing providers and others to improve the lives of people with disabilities. They provide direct legal representation informally and in courts and administrative hearings.
- Application:** Call to arrange services and complete intake procedures.

Note: The Legal Center may be able to serve as a good starting place to get information and additional referrals to private attorneys who could provide assistance with wills and special needs trust funds.

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Guardianship Alliance of Colorado

- Local:** Guardianship Alliance of Colorado
801 Yosemite Street
Denver, CO 80230
303-228-5382
- Website:** www.guardianshipallianceofcolorado.org
- Purpose:** The Guardianship Alliance exists to provide and monitor guardianships and conservatorship appointments for adults. They also exist to prevent the need for guardianship and conservatorship by encouraging the establishment of advance directives (living will and durable powers of attorney).
- Eligibility:** Some services are free, however some include a fee, such as the guardian training classes. Services are open to interested individuals.
- Services:** The Guardianship Alliance provides information, referrals, and assistance for individuals, families and organizations about: guardianship and conservatorship for adults who are incapacitated and/or vulnerable; advance directives (the living will and durable powers of attorney); proxy decision-makers for medical treatment; how to terminate guardianship and conservatorship; what to do about abusive and/or exploitive guardians and conservators; other related information.
- Application:** Call to arrange services/referrals as well as to register for training events.

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Disabled Resource Services

- Local:** Disabled Resource Services
424 Pine Street, Suite #101
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-2700 Voice (970) 407-7060 TTY
- Website:** www.fortnet.org/drs/
- Purpose:** Disabled Resource Services exists to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum level of independence through services supporting advocacy, awareness and access to their community.
- Eligibility:** Services are available for Larimer County residents.
- Services:** DRS provides long-term case management which includes: financial assistance, independent livings skills training, peer counseling, advocacy and employment assistance. DRS also works to develop community awareness through short-term assistance to individuals both with and without disabilities. Community awareness services include: information and referrals, volunteer coordination, equipment rentals and public education. DRS also coordinates the Supported Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is for individuals with disabilities, 13 - 21 years of age. IT is designed to teach job readiness skills, offer job shadow and actual work experience activities, and assist with job placement and job coaching arrangements.
- Application:** Call to arrange services and complete intake procedures.

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The Matthews House

- Local:** The Matthews House
726 Mathews Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 472-4293
- Website:** www.themattewshouse.org
- Purpose:** The Matthews House exists to serve at-risk youth ages 16-21 that lack significant family support in their lives. Many of these youth have not had the influence of a stable caring adult and they frequently do not have the skills necessary for living independently, retaining a job, solving problems, managing money and building solid relationships.
- Eligibility:** Services are designed for youth ages 16-21 who are experiencing transition into adulthood and separation from caregivers. Services and resource availability fluctuates; interested individuals should call to inquire about service availability. Services are often contracted with Larimer County Department of Youth Corrections and Larimer County Department of Human Services.
- Services:** The Matthews House provides case management, activities, trainings and resources to assist with five core areas (safe and affordable housing, physical & mental health, employment, education, and interpersonal & social skills). Matthews House also coordinates adult mentors with participants.
- Application:** Individuals can call to self-refer or walk in during business hours. Case managers and other involved individuals can also refer a youth.