Funding Our Centers

Help us break new ground with services for crime victims with disabilities
Ten Regional Adult Advocacy Centers

Plans are in motion to build 10 specially designed regional centers throughout Ohio, with those locations indicated by the blue counties in the map at left. These centers will bring together highly trained teams of professionals to perform forensic interviews and collect evidence in crimes against adults with disabilities, including cases of assault, sexual violence, domestic violence and human trafficking. The Adult Advocacy Centers will break new ground by incorporating both universal and multi-sensory design into each location, allowing us to serve each client safely and purposefully, according to their individual needs. These centers will allow all adults with disabilities to access victim services in an equal, inclusive and accessible way, no matter where they live in the state. The AACs model is the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

Due to confidentiality and security concerns, this brochure only includes design images of the exterior of the buildings.
The Client Experience

Clients will enter through the center’s front door, where they will be greeted by intake staff, checked in and escorted to the private waiting room in their suite. This will ensure client privacy.

The Adult Advocacy Centers will include up to five forensic suites, with varied trauma-responsive interior design strategies to support different types of disabilities. The suites will be very similar in layout but will also be flexible enough to respond to the needs of each client. Four of the suites will be designed to accommodate specific types of disabilities:

- Deaf, Blind and DeafBlind,
- Serious mental illness,
- Sensory and
- Physical mobility.

The fifth suite will be capable of serving clients who have intensive medical needs or who are in crisis. It will be located close to intake and the ambulette drop-off for convenience and privacy.
A Focus on Privacy and Accessibility

**Private Waiting Rooms**
Every suite will have a private entrance and waiting room. The interior of each suite entrance will include a unique feature wall that may accommodate greenery or a digital display featuring a positive, custom-selected visual image. Tall ceilings and high windows will allow natural light to accent each entrance along the access corridor.

**Inside the Suites**
A small vestibule off the access corridor will lead into the private family and support waiting room. The client will continue into the private areas of the suite, entering a spacious central circulation area. This layout will allow the client to have direct access to their suite’s forensic interview, counseling and observation rooms and the building's medical hub. The natural light brought in through the high windows will make a calming connection to the outdoors. Shading devices will be used if a client prefers dimmer lighting.

**Forensic Interview Rooms**
The fully accessible interview rooms will be custom built to help victims feel comfortable and welcomed. The rooms will include state-of-the-art video and audio recording technology for evidence collection. The interviewer will be able to point out the non-intrusive microphones and cameras, but the technology will not be disruptive. The rooms also will have customizable features to accommodate different disabilities and will be soundproofed to ensure confidentiality.

**Forensic Medical Exam Rooms**
The fully accessible forensic medical rooms will be designed to ensure a trauma-responsive experience for each victim. Forensic nurse examiners trained to care for crime victims with disabilities will use the state-of-the-art technology available in these spaces to collect evidence. Like the forensic interview rooms, the medical exam rooms will be able to accommodate a wide variety of disabilities and will be soundproofed.
**Exit Vestibules**

Each suite also has a private exit vestibule that will provide the client and their support team with direct access to the parking area. This arrangement will keep clients from having to travel back through the intake area, maintaining privacy for other clients who might be arriving.

**Training Center**

Each Adult Advocacy Center will include a second, smaller building that will house a training center. In addition to hosting classes and meetings, the training centers will serve as disaster relief shelters in the event of an emergency. Staff members trained in disaster preparedness will be on site in those situations to help people with disabilities connect to services and reunite with family, friends, providers and caregivers. People with disabilities also will be able to use the center to charge their medical devices, refrigerate medication and receive help from the on-site food pantry.
Your Gift Can Make a Difference

Your tax-deductible gift will help the Adult Advocacy Centers and its partners bring much needed systemic change to the field of crime victims’ services. Our paradigm-shifting model will help build better cases against those who perpetrate crimes against people with disabilities and increase the number of successful prosecutions.

Your investment today can help adult victims of crime with disabilities receive quality services and supports that will accommodate their individual needs. Join us in our world-changing work.

To donate, visit adultadvocacycenters.org/donate or email fundraising@adultadvocacycenters.org.

People with disabilities have always had a voice.

We’re just teaching the world different ways to listen.