



PROTECTION & ADVOCACY PROJECT
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ND Protection & Advocacy Project
Recommits to Supporting Gainful Employment for People with Disabilities

(Bismarck, ND) The ND Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) administers ND's Client Assistance Program. The Client Assistance Program (CAP) was established to advise and inform clients, client applicants, and other individuals with disabilities of available services and benefits under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This year, P&A has recommitted to ensuring people with disabilities have the opportunity for a meaningful employment in their chosen field at a fair wage. To do this P&A has expanded their CAP team with the capacity to serve folks statewide and a community presence in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Minot. P&A will be providing information and training on vocational support services, employment rights, and options for assistance via CAP.

Most individuals receiving services from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) or Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are eligible for CAP services. CAP can help a person with a disability negotiate and resolve disagreements related to services. Concerns that may be addressed include denial of eligibility and services, a decrease in services, a request for a different VR counselor being denied, a decision by VR to close a client's case, a disagreement about the scope of services or the service provider, or a disagreement about the identified employment goal. Veronica Zietz, P&A Executive Director states, "CAP exists to help people with disabilities achieve positive employment outcomes and part of that is facilitating relationship building between people with disabilities and those that administer the services available to them."

CAP can:

- Help you understand services and benefits provided by VR and CILs.
- Explain what you need to do to get services and benefits.
- Help people work and communicate with VR and CILs.
- Investigate issues to resolve problems with VR and CILs.
- Pursue remedies to ensure the protection of your rights.
- Assist in appealing decisions made by your counselor.
- Help you access services.

P&A will be providing information and outreach to a variety of audiences to explain CAP services and talk to potential clients. To learn more about CAP visit <https://www.ndpanda.org/client-assistance-program-cap> or contact our Centralized Intake at (701) 328-2950, 1-800-472-2670 (toll free), 711 (TDD relay), or panda_intake@nd.gov.

The North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project is a federally mandated, independent state agency established in 1977 to advance the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. P&A's mission is to champion the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities where we live, work and play. P&A fulfills its mission by providing services to individuals with disabilities and their support networks; these services include information and referral, assistance with self-advocacy, education and training, advocacy services, legal representation, protective services, and systems and legislative advocacy.

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