



PLACE STAMP
HERE

TO REACH US:

Robert Coward, 202-397-1668
fax: 202-398-8063
ablebutdisable@earthlink.net

Marjorie Rifkin, 202-547-0198
x112
fax: 202-588-9638
marjrifikin@juno.com

Nancy Hildebrand, 202-244-2847

By Mail:
DIRECT Action
P.O Box 21200
Washington, DC 20009

www.directact.org

DIRECT Action
Post Office Box 21200
Washington, DC 20009
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DISABLED
INDIVIDUALS FOR
REAL
EMPowerMENT &
COMMUNITY
TRAINING
Action



ADAPTers at DC MiCASSA introduction

OUR HOMES NOT NURSING HOMES

DIRECT Action stands for Disabled Individuals for Real Empowerment & Community Training.

Our goal is **CONSUMER CHOICE** for people with disabilities in the District of Columbia who want to live in their own homes with the services and supports they need, rather than in institutions such as nursing homes.

Our accomplishments:

- Won a lawsuit against the DC Housing Authority resulting in 565 wheelchair-accessible public housing units & improvements in the Section 8 HCVP Program
- Promoted an expansion of Medicaid waiver services from elderly only to all adults who need home and community-based attendant services
- Helped ten DC residents find wheelchair-accessible housing and move out of nursing homes with the attendant care services and medical equipment they needed
- Testified in the City Council twice for a DC Medicaid Community Attendant Services & Supports Act (MiCASSA)
- Testified at WMATA hearings against transit fare increases and in support of improved services; at the DC Dept. of Housing & Community Development for funding for home modifications, and at the DC Housing Authority for accessible public housing
- Conducted city wide trainings for nursing home residents and people at risk of nursing home placement about home and community-based alternatives.

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DIRECT Action's Bobby Coward receiving Spinal Cord Injury Network's annual Jane Mackintosh Award

DIRECT Action is fighting for:

- Access to community-based attendant care services to help people with activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, and meal preparation) in their own homes;
- Appropriate medical equipment in consumers' homes;
- Wheelchair-accessible housing and home modifications (ramps, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms and kitchens);
- Better housing policies with the DC Housing Authority, local developers and private landlords to increase the availability of accessible, affordable housing and home modifications.

OUR HOMES NOT NURSING HOMES

Ongoing activities include:

home and community-based alternatives to nursing home care under the Medicaid Program;

- Improving the quality, availability and range of Medicaid community-based services to meet consumers' needs for attendant care in their homes;
- Advocating for Medicaid community-based, consumer-directed attendant services and supports for individuals who want to get out of nursing homes and remain in their own homes;
- Urging the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WAMTA) to maintain escalators, elevators and appropriate shuttle services;
- Advocating with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for affordable transit fares.