



**SELF- ADVOCACY PUERTO RICO**



# Self-Advocacy Groups in Puerto Rico

- **Asociación Mayagüezana de Personas con Impedimentos- (Mayaguez Association for People with Disabilities)**
- **Fundación Puertorriqueña Síndrome Down- (Puerto Rico's Down Syndrome Foundation)**
- **National Federation of the Blind of Puerto Rico (NFB)**
- **Asociación de Padres Pro-Bienestar de Niños con Impedimentos (APNI) (Parents Information Advocacy Center)**
- **Asociación Espina Bífida e Hidrocefalia- (Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalia Association)**

# Self-Advocacy Groups in Puerto Rico

- **Movimiento para Alcance de Vida Independiente (MAVI)- Independent Living Movement Center of Puerto Rico)**
- **Asociación de Niños y Adultos con Impedimentos Intelectuales (ANARM) (Association for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities)**
- **Alianza de Autismo– (Puerto Rico Alliance for Autism and related disorders)**
- **Asociación Nacional de Ciegos– (National Association of the Blind)**
- **Asociaciones de Estudiantes Universitarios con Impedimentos- (Associations of University Students with Disabilities)**



# Resources for Self-Advocacy Organizations in Puerto Rico

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resources?	What resources are provided?
<p><i>Asociación Mayagüezana de Personas con Impedimentos</i></p> <p><b>Mayaguez Association of People with Disabilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental Disabilities State Council</li> <li>• United Way</li> <li>• Mayagüez Municipality</li> <li>• Legislative Donations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Living</li> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Recreational and sport skills</li> </ul>
<p><i>Fundación Puertorriqueña Síndrome Down</i></p> <p><b>Puerto Rico Down Syndrome Foundation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of the Family</li> <li>• Legislative Donations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Development</li> <li>• Inclusion and integration</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>
<p>Federación Nacional de Ciegos de Puerto Rico</p> <p><b>National Federation of the Blind of Puerto Rico (NFB)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donations</li> <li>• Fundraising Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counseling on civil and human rights</li> <li>• Self-advocacy counseling</li> </ul>
<p><i>Asociación de Padres Pro-Bienestar de Niños con Impedimentos (APNI)</i></p> <p><b>Parents Information and Advocacy Center</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Funds from the Department of Education and the Health Department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent advocacy on the rights and services for the population</li> <li>• Public Policy</li> <li>• Clearinghouse</li> </ul>

# Resources for Self-Advocacy Organizations in Puerto Rico

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resources?	What resources are provided?
<p><i>Asociación Espina Bífida e Hidrocefalia</i></p> <p><b>Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalia Association</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Way</li> <li>• Fund Raising activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the services</li> <li>• Community Integration</li> <li>• Therapy</li> <li>• Information and Referral</li> </ul>
<p><i>Movimiento para el Alcance Vida Independiente (MAVI)</i></p> <p><b>Independent Living Movement Center of Puerto Rico</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Funds of the Education Department and Rehabilitation Services Administration Department.</li> <li>• Federal Funds of Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Social Security, Legislative Donation Commission and United Way</li> <li>• ARRA Funds</li> <li>• Cornell University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Living</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Inclusion</li> <li>• Peer Counseling</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Information and Referral</li> </ul>
<p><i>Asociación de Niños y Adultos con Impedimentos Intelectuales (ANARM)</i></p> <p><b>Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds of the Family Department and the Labor Department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Living</li> <li>• Employment Training</li> </ul>

# Resources for Self-Advocacy Organizations in Puerto Rico

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<p><i>Alianza de Autismo</i></p> <p><b>Puerto Rico Alliance for Autism and Related Disorders</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donations</li> <li>• Fund raising activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support groups</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
<p><i>Asociación Nacional de Ciegos</i></p> <p><b>National Association of the Blind</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funds of Vocational Rehabilitation Department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor Area</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Independent Living</li> </ul>
<p><i>Asociaciones de Estudiantes Universitarios con Impedimentos</i></p> <p><b>Associations of University Students with Disabilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Puerto Rico</li> <li>• Ana G. Méndez University System</li> <li>• Sacred Heart University</li> <li>• Catholic University of Puerto Rico</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students integration to the university</li> <li>• Education on inclusion to the university community</li> <li>• Leadership development</li> </ul>

# What Works for Puerto Rico Advocates



- **Trainings**-on self advocacy, leadership, inclusion and Independent Living.
- **Community Base Organizations**- who have develop new and creative ways to work on inclusion and self determination.
- **Support** – From the government agencies and non- profit organizations.



# Puerto Rico's Challenges and Struggles

- **Transportation**

- Not enough services
- Not accessible in rural areas
- Unreliable

- **Housing**

- Not enough housing units
- Need of Housing with universal design
- Lack of individualized housing options





# Puerto Rico's Challenges and Struggles

- **Employment**

- High unemployment
- Unequal wages
- A Need for more job opportunities

- **Money**

- PR does not have SSI
- Not enough money for services and interventions
- **The PR self advocates need to collaborate and work more as a team...**



# Puerto Rico's Advocates are most Proud of...

- People with special needs are more visible in the community.
- People are aware of their rights .
- People are more vocal and willing to speak about their needs.
- Assistive technology services are more accessible.
- Youth Leadership development Projects.

# Puerto Rico's Advocates are most Proud of...

- Greater awareness of autism, the fastest growing developmental disability.
- Development of recreational opportunities.
- Self-advocates getting formal leadership training/education in Developmental Disabilities.
- Self-advocates participation on committees of decision-making entities.
- Self-advocates taking action, planning and working to create solutions for their own problems/needs.



# Goals and Dreams



- Real job opportunities
- Housing with universal design
- More Trainings on inclusion.
- Transportation for everyone.
- Research and Data Center on prevalence of different conditions.
- **A society free of discrimination and with Full inclusion**





# Puerto Rico Team!

- María Reyes – Co-Chair-PR-UCEDD
- Carlos Molina – UCEDD-CAC
- Ileana Rodríguez – P&A Office
- Ismael Figueroa – P&A Office
- José Pizarro – Attendant Ismael
- Ramón Uribe – MAVI – PR ILC
- Wildalis Soto – MAVI – PR ILC
- Wanda Miranda – PR DDC
- Ramona Febo – PR-DDC Council
- Carlos Contreras – Self-Advocate
- Yadiel Sotomayor – National Federation of the Blind



A photograph of a tropical beach. The foreground shows a sandy beach with gentle waves washing onto it. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. In the background, a large, dark green forested hill or island rises against a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**Thanks!**

**¡Gracias!**