



Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities

Access Benton County – Jim Smith

This project has impacted my life because:

Access Benton County (ABC) advocates for improved access for persons with disabilities and seniors living in Benton County, Oregon. ABC has advocated for excellence in access for people with disabilities for more than 30 years. Because of this project, ABC made important recommendations to improve access to a small community health building in Corvallis, located in Benton County, by providing assistance to community partners on two surveys that were administered in Benton County, Oregon.

The most influential policy, system, or environmental change of this project to me was:

The most satisfying suggestion that arose from the survey process was to ensure that at least one examination room would be arranged so that a patient who uses a wheelchair could independently enter and leave the room for their medical appointment. This environmental change served as an example of a needed change that did not cost a lot of money or take a lot of time to implement, yet exceedingly improves the patient's ability to independently access medical needs by making subtle changes to the environment.

As a result of this, we:

While this is an example of a small change, it helped ABC realize how modest and cost-efficient changes can yield very important benefits for people with disabilities.

What was the emotional connection, self-efficacy, or "ah-ha" moment for this project?

Through this project, Access Benton County was able to make recommendations to our clinics that will make positive changes for people with disabilities for years to come.

Please note that testimonials may be edited for clarity by the NACDD Communications Department.