

What is Cerebral Palsy?

Cerebral palsy is a term used to describe a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination. It is caused by damage to one or more specific areas of the brain, usually occurring during fetal development; before, during or shortly after birth; or during infancy. "Cerebral" refers to the brain and "palsy" to muscle weakness/poor control. Cerebral palsy itself is not progressive (i.e. brain damage does not get worse); however, secondary conditions, such as muscle spasticity, can develop which may get better over time, get worse or remain the same. Although cerebral palsy is not "curable", training and therapy can help improve function.

Did You Know...

- An estimated 500,000 children and adults in the U.S. manifest one or more symptom of cerebral palsy.
- Currently, approximately 5,000 babies and infants are diagnosed with cerebral palsy each year.
- Cerebral palsy is NOT hereditary, contagious or a primary cause of death.
- Every day more than 30,000 people are served by UCP affiliates nationwide.
- UCP strives to build a better world for tomorrow – today!

UCP's Mission Statement:

UCP is committed to "advancing the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities."

How To Contact
UCP of Nebraska:

800-729-2556
(402) 502-3572
fax: (402) 502-6791
ucp@ucpnebraska.org



UCP of
Nebraska

Programs
and
Services

A Proud Member of
Community
Health Charities®
Nebraska
WORKING FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA

UCP
Understanding Disabilities
Creating Opportunities



Life without limits for people with disabilities

Who is UCP?

Founded in 1949 as United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Inc., UCP has evolved into one of the nation's largest and most respected disability services and health-related not-for-profit organizations. UCP is a nationwide network of more than 114 statewide and local agencies (UCP affiliates) in 41 states covering 85% of the U.S. population.

UCP is the leading source of information on cerebral palsy and is a pivotal advocate for the rights of all people with disabilities. Although UCP affiliates serve many people with cerebral palsy, more than 65% of people involved in the organization have disabilities other than cerebral palsy such as disabilities associated with aging, spinal cord injuries, learning disabilities, visual disabilities, and other disabilities that affect daily living.

UCP of Nebraska is committed to "*advancing the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.*" UCP of Nebraska provides programs, services, information and referrals to empower those affected by a disability and advocates for all people with disabilities.

Programs and Services of UCP of Nebraska

TECH TOTS

The Tech Tots Toy Lending Libraries provide adapted toys and devices to children with developmental and physical disabilities, at no cost to families. Adapted toys and devices decrease physical and social barriers to play, enabling children at varied functional levels to actively explore and achieve some independence. Parents, professionals and other care providers can become a member of Tech Tots by visiting one of several locations in Nebraska. Call **1-800-729-2556** to find the location nearest you.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

UCP of Nebraska provides limited grants to qualified families and individuals with disabilities to promote independence and encourage empowerment. The grants program helps with things such as purchasing adaptive equipment, removing barriers in the home and providing scholarships for special programs like summer camp, sports programs and training. UCP of Nebraska will also assist in identifying and acquiring other sources of funding.

REFERRAL

UCP of Nebraska serves as a referral source for people with a disability, their family members, professionals and advocates throughout Nebraska. UCP of Nebraska is a member of the Coordinated Funding Committee which works together to share information on new services and programs available in Nebraska. Call **1-800-729-2556** to find the most appropriate resource available.

ADVOCACY

Volunteers and staff monitor federal, state and local legislation of interest to people with disabilities. UCP of Nebraska is an active member of the NCCD (Nebraska Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities) and advocates to improve public policy and needed legislation for people with disabilities.

EDUCATION

The Speaker's Bureau provides informative presentations to corporations, civic groups, professionals, and family members. Staff and volunteers are available to provide information and education on cerebral palsy, parent and professional education and support, and updates on current issues and trends affecting individuals with disabilities.

INFORMATION

UCP of Nebraska provides general information on cerebral palsy and similar conditions. The Resource Lending Library features a variety of books and videotapes that are available on a short-term loan basis at selected Tech Tots Sites and the affiliate office.

WEB PAGE

Access UCP through the internet at www.ucp.org.



Understanding Disabilities
Creating Opportunities