

**NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER (NAC)** respectfully requests consideration of a one-time appropriation for capital improvement in the amount of \$500,000 to expand its impact on veterans and individuals with disabilities and families who love and support them.

The expansion will enable the NAC to more than *triple the number of individuals served per year* by 2030. It is vital to the delivery of high-quality, in-demand programs that address the health and well-being of historically underserved populations.

The expansion also fosters key partnerships and strengthens the NAC's reputation as an innovative industry leader, supporting the many societal and economic justifications for such an investment.

**FOR THOSE FACING PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES** as a result of disease, illness, and disability, recreation enhances active living, helping limit the onset of further impairment by maintaining mobility, flexibility, and cognitive abilities. It also offers vital opportunities to strengthen families, socialize and build support networks.

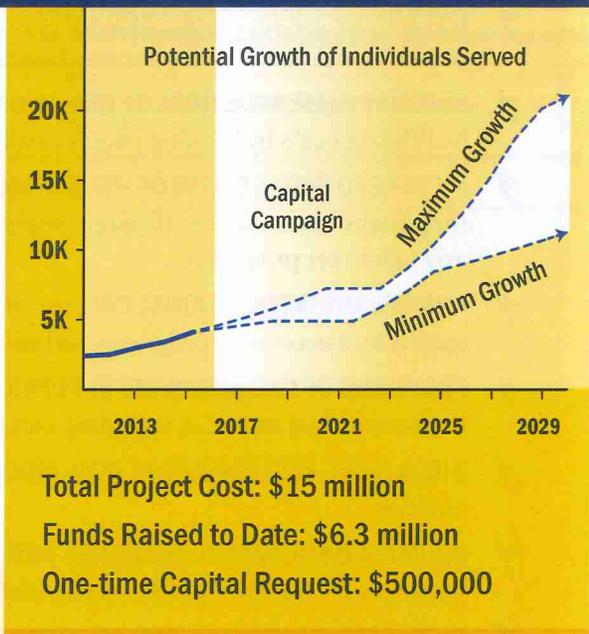
Expansion will positively affect the NAC's ability to serve the increasing number of underserved families and individuals that depend on its services year-round. The positive impact on the state flows from the individuals, to the society, and includes progressive educational, experiential, and economic factors.

**NEARLY 1 IN 5 AMERICANS HAS A DISABILITY.** Current systems of care are ill-prepared to support rapidly emerging groups, including:

- *Injured service members transitioning from active duty to civilian and family life*
- *Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders*
- *Aging "baby-boomers"*

## NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER IS STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED TO SUPPORT UTAH'S INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS DURING THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

- **Utah Dept. of Veterans & Military Affairs.** Ensuring the delivery of responsive, well-planned and effective services to veterans, military, and their families.
- **Utah Office of Tourism.** Enabling local and out-of-state individuals with a variety of abilities to discover statewide, outdoor recreation opportunities, thereby increasing the quality and quantity of state tourism visits and generating revenue and tax relief that improves the lives of all Utah citizens.
- **Utah Dept. of Health.** Encouraging active lifestyles to reduce health care costs and strengthen well-being.
- **Access Utah.** Creating opportunities for accessible recreation for people of all abilities and establishing Utah as a national, best-practice model for inclusive recreation.



## OUTCOMES OF INVESTMENT IN NAC EXPANSION

- **GROWTH OF SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS** focused on veterans seeking personal and family healing from challenges such as PTSD.
- **SUPPORT STATE WIDE GOAL OF HEALTH CARE** and lowering healthcare costs by keeping people healthier longer.
- **INCREASED ENGAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS OF ALL ABILITIES** within their home communities through employment, education, sports and volunteer programs.
- **ANSWER THE INTERNATIONAL CALL** for the development of high-quality and accessible programs and adaptive experiences.
- **FOSTERING OF ONGOING SHIFT IN PUBLIC PERCEPTION** of limitations and attitudes regarding inclusion.
- **BUILD MORE EXTRAORDINARY ROLE MODELS** and leaders of all abilities.
- **INCREASED EDUCATION, TRAININGS AND RESOURCES** for participants, families, professionals, staff and volunteers.
- **INCREASED AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE** of people of all abilities locally, nationally, and internationally.

WHEN WE FAIL TO PUT PROGRAMS IN PLACE THAT SUPPORT THE CAPACITY OF PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES, WE RISK:

- Increased rates of depression, isolation, alcohol and drug abuse, and secondary health issues related to inactivity and lack of social acceptance.
- Withdrawing from society lacking a sense of purpose and/or ability to contribute to community.
- Low rates of employment (only 20% of adults with a disability are employed).
- Increased cost of healthcare medical care due to secondary health issues, chronic disease and financial barriers complicated by already high medical costs.
- High levels of divorce among families who face serious illness (estimates put this as high as 80%).

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships demonstrate the collective opportunities for the NAC to be part of a broad, comprehensive approach to creating change in the world and to achieving our vision of inspiring individual achievement and a global impact for people of all abilities.



**VAIL RESORTS**  
EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME



VA Medical Centers - Salt Lake, Boise, and more  
U.S. Department of Defense - Adaptive Sports Grant  
U.S. Department of Education  
Naval Medical Center - San Diego  
Hill Air Force Base  
University of Utah - National Center for Veterans Studies

Intermountain Healthcare  
Edwards Life Sciences  
Utah Office of Tourism  
Bureau of Land Management  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Petzl

\*In all, the National Ability Center supports over 250 partnerships.

“Life is best enjoyed when time periods are evenly divided between labor, sleep, and recreation...all people should spend one-third of their time in recreation which is rebuilding, voluntary activity, never idleness.”

- Brigham Young