United Spinal Association 2020 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

United Spinal Association is the largest nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D), including veterans, and providing support and information to loved ones, care providers and professionals. Founded in 1946, our goal is to provide people living with SCI/D (i.e., wheelchair users, individuals with MS, ALS, spina bifida and post-polio syndrome) with vital programs and services that maximize their independence and enable them to remain active in their communities. Today, United Spinal has over 50 chapters, 200 support groups and 100 rehabilitation hospital partners serving 50,000 members across the country.

VETSFIRST
VetsFirst is a leader in advocacy for veterans with disabilities, ensuring they achieve the highest level of independence and quality of life. The program connects with thousands of veterans and actively serving military personnel annually through our and online help desk.

NATIONAL CHAPTER NETWORK
United Spinal Chapters are self-dependent organizations support the SCI/D community by promoting health and well-being, inclusion and independence, organizing local events and projects, advocating for rights and accessibility, and offering resources and support.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP MEETING
This annual meeting brings together our national leadership to discuss the critical needs within the SCI/D community so we can provide our chapters with tools to effectively serve our members.

ADVOCACY & POLICY NETWORK
We are actively engaged in advocating for policies that benefit paralyzed Americans and all people with disabilities. Our priorities focus on advancing access healthcare, community integration, employment, disability benefits and disability rights.

ROLL ON CAPITOL HILL
Our annual legislative advocacy event brings wheelchair users from across the country to Washington, DC to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the policy debate, and addresses legislative and regulatory issues that impact our members.

RESOURCE CENTER
Our Spinal Cord Resource Center connects people with personal guidance and state and local resources to effectively regain their quality of life and independence after diagnosis of a spinal cord injury or disorder.

PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT
We support the pursuit of new career opportunities for people with disabilities and partner with employers to place people with SCI/D in workplace jobs and provide trained peer mentors, resources, and professional support to facilitate return to work.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
United Spinal has over 70 years of experience educating and empowering individuals with SCI/D to achieve and maintain the highest levels of independence, health and personal fulfillment. We connect people with SCI/D to their peers and foster an expansive grassroots network that enriches lives.

PEER MENTORING SUPPORT GROUPS
We provide peer to peer support for individuals, friends, caregivers and family members through a national network of peer support groups.

NEW MOBILITY
United Spinal's monthly membership magazine which provides the latest information and resources on active living for wheelchair users.

NEW BEGINNING BACKPACK
We distribute backpacks that provide information and resources to a person transitioning into their communities after SCI/D. The backpack is distributed through our national network of rehab hospital partners, chapters, and peer support groups.

HOSPITAL NETWORK
Our Affiliate Hospital Members provide the full scope of clinical and rehabilitative services with an emphasis on spinal cord injury care.

READY TO ROLL KIT
We assist the SCI/D community, caregivers, professionals and municipalities to prepare for natural or human-caused disasters through advanced planning, education, awareness raising and distribution of Ready to Roll kits.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
We ensure that the built environment is accessible to all people with disabilities and provide a team of certified accessibility specialists and architects to train design professionals and review design plans on national projects.

UNITED ON WHEELS PODCAST
We produce a wheelchair lifestyle podcast addressing all the things that wheelchair users care about and candid discussions ranging from dating to traveling with a disability.

DISABILITY ETIQUETTE CAMPAIGN
This national education campaign was created to erase public misconceptions about wheelchair users and ease the awkwardness that many experience when interacting with someone with a disability for the first time.

For more information about United Spinal’s programs and services, visit www.unitedspinal.org, call 800-404-2898 or email askus@unitedspinal.org.

* Available for Program Sponsorship – non-exclusive/exclusive