



# Your Wheelchair Team Members: Consumer Organizations

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## Consumer Organizations Overview:

### Who

Consumer Organizations are groups that work with and represent groups of people with a common interest to ensure they are treated fairly or equally. These groups may represent people with a specific type of diagnosis, such as individuals living with Multiple Sclerosis are represented by the National MS Society. Or the organizations may represent people with shared circumstances, such as UsersFirst represents people who use wheelchairs.

### When

Consumer Organizations may be helpful to add to your wheelchair team at any point in your wheelchair process. You may want support from like-minded individuals as soon as you begin your process, or you may want to connect with an organization later in the process, for example, when you begin to seek funding sources.

### What

Consumer organizations can be excellent resources for information pertaining to equipment, mobility and funding. Each organization offers different resources, so feel free to reach out to as many as you feel necessary.

## Links to Some Consumer Organizations:

UsersFirst	<a href="http://www.usersfirst.org">www.usersfirst.org</a>
National Spinal Cord Injury Association	<a href="http://www.spinalcord.org">www.spinalcord.org</a>
USA Tech Guide	<a href="http://www.usatechguide.org">www.usatechguide.org</a>
United Spinal Association	<a href="http://www.unitedspinal.org">www.unitedspinal.org</a>
Able to Travel	<a href="http://www.abletotravel.org">www.abletotravel.org</a>
ALS Association	<a href="http://www.alsa.org">www.alsa.org</a>
Brain Injury Association of America	<a href="http://www.biausa.org">www.biausa.org</a>
MDA	<a href="http://www.mda.org">www.mda.org</a>
National MS Society	<a href="http://www.nationalmssociety.org">www.nationalmssociety.org</a>
Paralyzed Veterans of America	<a href="http://www.pva.org">www.pva.org</a>
Spina Bifida Association	<a href="http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org">www.spinabifidaassociation.org</a>
United Cerebral Palsey	<a href="http://www.ucp.org">www.ucp.org</a>
National Multiple Sclerosis Society	<a href="http://www.nmss.org">www.nmss.org</a>