



## Spotlight on: Disability Action Center



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The Disability Action Center (DAC) has been serving Idaho for more than 30 years, starting in 1993 with a federal grant of \$100,000 and a failing local transit system.

Mark Leeper, the executive director of DAC, believes transportation is essential to living the life of your choosing. So, he set out to repair the system. Through determination and collaboration, DAC has grown to what it is today. DAC prides itself on having an extremely diverse and adaptive board of directors, staff, and volunteers who form the partnership to work, and to promote the independence and equality of all individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society. Check out their staff of experts at [dacnw.org](http://dacnw.org) at three locations statewide --Moscow, Lewiston, and Post Falls.

DAC funds COAST (Council on Aging and Human Services) for transit services. They operate on a demand-response platform with volunteer drivers, providing transit for those who need it most. They provide services throughout north and central Idaho. The vehicles have lift equipment for those in need of a mobility device.

This expands the area covered by Sustainable Moscow Area Regional Transit (SMART) that operates only within Moscow city limits. COAST provides safe, accessible transportation options to help you get where you want to go anytime, anywhere, for any reason. There is a COAST van stationed at the Moscow DAC office for extended services outside Moscow city limits. To schedule (48 hours in advance) call 800-967-2899. Their website also gives many other transportation options with persons with disabilities who qualify.

DAC is so much more than just transportation. The elderly and disabled face barriers every day, at work, home, and in their communities. DAC works for change at the

community, state, and national levels to remove physical, communication and attitude barriers. They also work to find funding to remove barriers and help all groups live the life of their choosing.

DAC assists with independent living, medical equipment exchange, the Ramp Up Project, housing advocacy & assistance, and much more. They provide technology and communications services – “Stuff to make life easier.” They provide Assistive Technology services, which includes just about anything that makes it easier to perform a task. DAC specialists help with information on what might help, and where it can be found and how to use it.

If you feel DAC could be an asset to you or someone you know, or would like to donate time, money, or services, please call Mark Leeper at 208 883-0523.

