



**ABILITIES FIRST**  
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN  
& ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MID-HUDSON ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (MHAPD) MERGES INTO ABILITIES FIRST**

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (October 23, 2019) – Abilities First announces the merger of Mid-Hudson Association for Persons with Disabilities into its existing continuum of care. The existing MHAPD programs which will merge include Early Intervention Services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and Family Support Services, which provides support and advocacy for families who have a member with special needs living at home. Programs for financial reimbursement for goods and services related to the care of a family member with a developmental disability, formerly with MHAPD, will continue through Abilities First.

MHAPD was founded in Poughkeepsie over 25 years ago by parents of children with developmental disabilities. The original mission of MHAPD aligns with that of Abilities First, which makes this partnership seamless. The official merger will take place on November 1, 2019.

“I strongly believe that the merger of the two organizations will improve the services we proudly and lovingly provide to persons with disabilities,” said Dr. Moujali Hourani, President of the Board of Directors for MHAPD.

“We are pleased to finalize a great partnership that has developed over the past several years between Abilities First and MHAPD. Most importantly, together, we will ensure the future of family support and early intervention services for families in our community,” added Jeffery Fox, President and Chief Executive Officer of Abilities First.

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### **About Abilities First**

Founded in 1962, Abilities First is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of those with developmental disabilities from pre-school through adulthood. With more than 650 dedicated employees committed to providing educational, vocational, residential, habilitation and family support services, Abilities First gives individuals with disabilities and their families the support to attain independence, self-determination, integration and acceptance by others. In serving over 1,400 children and adults throughout the Hudson Valley region of New York State, Abilities First holds a long-term commitment to creating a cohesive culture of compassion, empowerment and respect for these individuals through education, exploration and experience. Abilities First is accredited for person-centered care by the Council on Quality and Leadership. For more information, visit [www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org](http://www.AbilitiesFirstNY.org) or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc](https://www.Facebook.com/AbilitiesFirstInc).