



## Abby Bownas Principal

Abby Bownas is a big thinker whose health background helps her deliver results on a range of “cradle-through-college-and-career” issues that ensure more people can lead happier, healthier lives. As NVG’s expert coalition builder, Abby manages the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition, bringing together over 50 stakeholders representing immunization providers, innovators, public health and patient groups to raise awareness, improve access, and increase utilization of vaccines among adults.

Abby’s considerable knowledge of the public health system has served NVG’s clients well. Since joining NVG in 2009, she has successfully helped our clients

to ensure diabetes preventive care was included in the Affordable Care Act; to broaden access to healthy food; and to fund and authorize “Promise Neighborhoods,” communities of opportunity centered around strong schools.

Prior to her career at NVG, Abby served as the Director of Federal Government Affairs at the American Diabetes Association, where she played a key role in the Association’s efforts to increase funding for diabetes research and prevention programs, expand the federal commitment to stem cell research, ensure that all Americans with diabetes have access to affordable and adequate health coverage and protect people with diabetes from discrimination. Abby helped lead the Association to victory on passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, working closely with a bipartisan coalition of disability, health, civil rights, religious, and business groups to restore the Americans with Disabilities Act to its rightful intent.

Earlier in her career, Abby spent over five years on Capitol Hill, in both the Senate and House of Representatives. After working for Senator Bob Kerrey (D-NE) and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), she moved to the office of Rep. John F. Tierney (D-MA), where she served as a Legislative Assistant handling a number of issues, including health care.

Abby earned a Master’s degree in Political Science in 2002 and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2000, both from the American University in Washington, DC. She enjoys baking banana bread every Sunday with her two children.