



DISABILITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

This innovative program is open to adults with developmental disabilities and family members of children with developmental disabilities who want to be effective leaders and advocates for the rights of people with disabilities. Institute participants learn about the principles of community inclusion and self-determination, current programs and state-of-the-art approaches to service delivery, policymaking processes at the local, state and federal levels, and issues of concern to the disability community.

The goal of the program is to give individuals the knowledge, skills and connections to be active participants in the development and oversight of public policies that affect people with disabilities. Institute participants meet and talk with national and state officials and leaders, learn how to influence public policy at all levels of government, and receive guidance and assistance from staff in their projects for the Institute.

What is included in the Institute?

Participants attend six two-day training sessions during Year One of the program, and complete homework assignments between sessions. For Year Two of the program, participants complete individual projects of their choice and design that allow them to use knowledge and advocacy skills learned in the first year.

What topics will be addressed?

- ◆ History and culture of the Disability Rights Movement
- ◆ Principles of self-determination and community inclusion
- ◆ Policy development at the local, State and Federal Levels
- ◆ Effective participation in meetings and other advocacy efforts
- ◆ Programs, policies and current issues important to children and adults with disabilities and their families related to:
 - Health Care
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Assistive Technology
 - Transportation
 - Recreation
 - Individualized Services/Supports

Weekend Sessions

Disability Leadership Institute participants will attend six two-day sessions between September 2009 and June 2010. Five sessions will be held on Saturday & Sunday and one will be held on Friday & Saturday. Tentative dates for the Institute are set for:

October 3 & 4, 2009

November 14 & 15, 2009

January 23 & 24, 2010

February 27 & 28, 2010

March 27 & 28, 2010

May 14 & 15, 2010

Sessions are open to Leadership Institute Participants only.
Attendance is mandatory at all sessions.

Developmental Disabilities Definition

A "developmental disability" is a severe chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 22
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - a) self-care;
 - b) receptive and expressive language;
 - c) learning;
 - d) mobility;
 - e) self-direction;
 - f) capacity for independent living;
 - g) economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

An individual from birth to age 9, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

Source: Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402)



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