



FLORIDA
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
COUNCIL, INC.



ARE YOU A SELF-ADVOCATE INTERESTED IN SPEAKING OUT?

The Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University has been funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc., to support the self-advocacy movement in Florida. This project began in the fall of 2006. To date, five groups from different locations have been selected to participate. Three additional groups will be added during calendar year 2008 with further expansion during 2009. The purpose of this application is to identify additional groups that are interested in joining the expansion of the grassroots self-advocacy movement within Florida.

According to Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, “Self-advocacy is about people with disabilities working together for justice by helping each other take charge of their lives and to speak out for what they believe.” The Center on Human Policy will assist individuals or groups from different locations in Florida to develop and build capacity as independent self-advocacy groups. The assistance the Center will provide will include the following:

- Up to \$4,000 in funding for each group to help people start a self-advocacy group.
- Consultation, training, and support to self-advocates and advisors on how to develop and operate a self-advocacy group.
- Training and networking meetings including travel expenses with representatives from the other self-advocacy groups in Florida who are participating in this project.
- A self-advocacy web site to network self-advocates and self-advocacy groups throughout the state.
- Resource materials and technical assistance on self-advocacy to help with the development of each group and to support self-advocacy activities.
- A plan to assist each group with continuation beyond the eighteen month period covered by this project.

Who Can Apply?

Any adult Florida citizen with a developmental disability who believes in the right of people to speak for themselves and who has the desire to work to improve the civil rights of persons with developmental disabilities may apply. Existing groups can apply. If you would like assistance with completing this application, please call us at 1-800-894-0826.

How Will Participants Be Selected?

1. We will select existing groups or individuals who want to start a self-advocacy group and agree with the following principles.
 - Self-advocacy groups should be run by people with disabilities. Group leaders and members should be people with disabilities. The leaders should be selected by group members, not by advisors or service providers.
 - Self-advocacy groups should be independent of service provider agencies; the agencies may provide material support to the group but may not have any say over the group's activities and decisions. Groups that receive any material support including meeting space from a service provider will be expected to demonstrate that they are independent and have plans to move their meetings to a location that is independent of service providers.
 - Groups should be representative of people who live on their own, with family, or in congregate settings. This criteria may be met if the group can demonstrate plans to broaden membership.
 - Groups should be representative of people who participate in a variety of day experiences including competitive employment and education.
 - Advisors should be selected by the group members and should support, teach when needed, and advise the group, but should not control or lead the group in any way.
2. We expect each group that is selected to have at least one self-advocate leader and one person, who may or may not have a disability, willing to be a group advisor representing each location.

3. Each group will be required to develop a written agreement that will describe how the \$4,000 funding will be spent and how it will contribute to the development of the local self-advocacy group.
4. The selected self-advocates and advisors must agree to attend two training sessions, both of which will require travel and overnight stays. Expenses for these sessions will be paid by the Center on Human Policy.
5. Participants must be willing to serve in a leadership self-advocacy role in their local community for a least one year following completion of their participation in this project.

How to Apply

- Fill out the application and mail it to us.
- If you need help in filling out the application, contact us for assistance. To request assistance you may call 1-800-894-0826 or e-mail Jessica Bacon at jkbacon@syr.edu
- **The deadline for applications is MAY 7, 2008.**
- After we receive applications, we will want to speak with the self-advocate applicant and advisor on the phone and will arrange a personal interview to get more information. We will try to schedule the personal interview at a time when you have a formal or informal meeting with other self advocates who are interested in participating in a local group.
- Copies of the application materials are available in alternative formats. Please contact us if you need the application in an alternate format.

This project is sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. The Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University is under contract with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc., to develop grassroots self-advocacy groups in different geographic areas within the State of Florida.



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Florida Self-Advocacy Movement Participant Application

APPLICATION

Self-Advocate

Name

Mailing Address

E-mail Address (if available)

Area Code & Phone

Potential Advisor

Name

Mailing Address

E-mail Address (if available)

Area Code & Phone

Are you currently involved in self-advocacy activities? If yes, please describe.

Are you willing to work to start a self-advocacy group or support an existing group in your area?

What are the biggest problems faced by people with disabilities in your area?

Are you willing to work with us and attend meetings at our expense?

Do you know of anyone else in your area who would want to join a self-advocacy group?

Applications may be submitted via U.S. Mail, fax (315-443-4338) or electronically (via email attachment).

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 5: 00 P.M. ON MAY 7, 2008

Return this application to:

Ms. Jessica Bacon,
Project Assistant
jkbacon@syr.edu
Center on Human Policy
Syracuse University
805 S Crouse Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13244-2280
1-800-894-0826
Fax 315-443-4338

Thank you!

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