

ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE SELF-ADVOCACY MOVEMENT

A Tip Sheet for Self Advocacy Groups



- ✚ Go directly to where the youth are already at to share about your group. For example, this could be at schools, churches, community centers, service provider agencies, and vocational rehabilitation offices.
- ✚ Make the meetings welcoming, current and attractive to young people. Try to find out what is important to youth? What are youth today worried about? What are youth looking for? For example, climate change, gun safety, employment, connection with peers, and attending social events.
- ✚ Pair new or interested members with a peer mentor who has been involved with the group for a while. Teach new members about the history of the disability civil rights movement.
- ✚ Think about doing a parent and/or sibling & youth group at the same time. This way parents & siblings can find out more about self advocacy and ask any questions that they might have.
- ✚ Attend as many community events as you can to help get the word out about your group. Come up with a master list of events/conferences/ and ways for members to get involved. For example, community resource fairs, school transition fairs and local & national conferences.
- ✚ Find and partner with other groups doing the same kind of work. We are all in this together.
- ✚ Identify and problem solve around potential barriers members might have to being involved. For example, transportation or schedule issues.

This publication is supported in part by a cooperative agreement from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities policy.

The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) seeks to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership. The resource center is a project of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the oldest national self-advocacy organization in the country. SARTAC is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance, funded by the Administration For Community Living – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The information in this product was written to provide guidance for self advocates and their allies to assist in understanding policy issues affecting their lives. It is not to be used to determine a person's legal rights or an organization's legal responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, as amended or any other federal, state or local laws written to protect the rights of people with disabilities