

## SELF-ADVOCACY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: REQUEST FOR PO (LESS THAN \$10,000)

### A Workshop Series for Disability Rights & Self-Advocacy Group Leaders

People with disabilities continue to be the largest minority group in the world; second in Arizona only to Latinx yet they remain over-represented in poor socio-economic indicators. Recent proposed and passed legislation has started to erode their rights under the ADA. Historically, people with disabilities have mobilized to assert their rights and promote their inclusion. But today, many are gripped by complacency. In Arizona, less than half of people with disabilities report speaking up for themselves all of the time. Only 7% of DDD members with I/DD were aware of or attended a self-advocacy group or meeting; and less than half were availed of opportunities to vote.

Now is the time to create spaces where people with disabilities can be included and have their voice heard. But, our current self-advocacy organizations are few in numbers statewide. They struggle with recruitment and with obtaining the necessary financial or human resources support to expand. They all have diverse goals but desire technical assistance to strengthen their organizations individually, as well as collectively. As we look to the future where advocacy becomes increasingly important in the face of today's policy challenges impacting people with disabilities, how should current self-advocacy organizations and other disability rights leaders respond so they are successful in their community organizing efforts?

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council invites disability leaders to participate in a highly interactive workshop series where we will examine the causes of and barriers to challenging systemic oppression and identify strategies to accomplish meaningful social transformation to fully include people with disabilities. The three-part series is designed for disability leaders, self-advocacy organization facilitators, and others interested in organizing the disability community to move beyond fear and discomfort of doing things differently and invoke the courage to take the necessary steps to change disability inequity in Arizona.

By the end of the series, participants will have started to: focus their strategy on how they can be more responsive to the disability community and grow their organizing efforts; identify new strategic partners; and determine how they will make a larger impact in the community.

Space is limited to 20 participants with a maximum of three individuals from an organization. To provide the most meaningful learning experience, participants are expected to attend all three workshops and schedule one-on-one conversations with the facilitator. ADDPC will assist participants with scheduling one-on-ones.

### Workshop Schedule

#### **Session One: How Did We Get Here?**

Friday, August | 1 – 4 p.m. | Anchor Centre Tenant Classroom (22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Camelback Road)

*In this session, we will briefly examine how ableism has created system-wide inequities, how Arizona advocates have responded, what has worked, and where we have fallen short. We will examine the barriers that stymie self-advocacy organizations and others from successfully mobilizing the disability community.*

#### **Session Two: Nothing About Us Without Us...or Without Them!**

Friday, September | 1 – 4 p.m. | Anchor Centre Tenant Classroom (22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Camelback Road)

*In this session, we will dive into a new understanding of how systems change can be accomplished through intentional practices that center those most impacted. We will discuss new strategies for working together and learn how to successfully partner with community groups and foundations to overcome barriers to build an equitable and just future.*

#### **Session Three: What's Our Plan?**

Friday, October | 1 – 4 p.m. | TBD (Central Phoenix)

*In the final session, we will develop a plan together for moving forward as active participants in social transformation. As part of that plan, we will determine what success looks like, and how we will know if we are making progress.*