

The Perspective of People with Disabilities on Training

Compiled by Self-Advocates in Leadership, a coalition of over 200 people with developmental disabilities from across the state, concerned with public policy.

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There are three paths that people can take to be an individual provider. Each of these categories should also include a different training component:

Professional Path

Who are they: Any individual who provides care as a career. These people might provide care for several people. Training for this group is essential.

What self-advocates would like to see: Self Advocates are interested in having the most educated and well paid professionals. FBI checks on the individual as well as the Agency are needed. Good driving records for individuals are important. The focus should be more clearly on people with developmental disabilities and maintaining their personal dignity and independence.

Parent Providers

Who are they: Parent providers provide care for their own children. Parents have been caring for their child for their whole life.

What self-advocates would like to see: Self Advocates are interested in having parents understand self determination, and think more clearly about the future for their children when they are no longer able to care for them.

Occasional Providers

Who are they: These providers are people who provide care occasionally and do not intend to make a career out of being an individual provider. These people only spend a few hours doing this kind of work each week or month.

What self-advocates would like to see: Occasional Providers are very important and need on the job training. However, these people should also get training on the values that people with disabilities find important. Even though this might be a small job that won't last long these providers will probably get other jobs that could include someone with a disability.