

Nuts and Bolts of Building a Volunteer and a Peer Support Program

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Using Volunteers in Independent Living

- There are a number of uses for volunteers at Independent Living Centers
 - Peer Support
 - Internships/Work Experience
 - Events/Activities sponsored by the IL Center
 - Advocacy Activities
 - Volunteer Drivers

5 Things to Think About When Using Volunteers

- 1. Training
- 2. Staff Time
- 3. Goal(s)
- 4. Recruitment Plan
- 5. Connecting People

Training of Volunteers

- The purpose for using volunteers should dictate the training needs
 - Peer Support – Training persons with disabilities to be mentors
 - Work Experience – Training on IL history and philosophy
 - Events/Activities – Training on planning, marketing, coordination, and working with persons with disabilities (disability etiquette)
 - Advocacy – Contacting legislators, meeting with legislators or policy makers
 - Volunteer Driver (CILWWs New Freedom Program – Training on transporting persons with disabilities

Staff Time Needed

- Consider how much staff time is needed!
 - Coordination of programs/activities
 - Outreach activities
 - Recruitment
 - Training
 - Conducting background checks! Could be a requirement if volunteers are working with or around vulnerable persons.

Goal(s) for Volunteers

- What do you need volunteers for? Have specific goals!
 - If it's peer support, what are you going to use volunteers for?
 - One on One matches, Group Activities
 - If it's a work experience/internships, what are they going to be doing?
 - Specific job duties and learning objectives
 - If it's an event or activity, what are the volunteers going to be doing?
 - Have specific tasks that need to be done, such as planning, coordination, registration
 - If it's advocacy, what do volunteers need to know and act on?
 - Educate persons on the legislation or issues they advocating for and what to do with that information
 - If it's volunteer drivers, who will they be transporting and why?
 - What need or gap in services are you trying to fill?

Recruitment Plan

- How are you going to recruit volunteers? This will take time and effort!!!
 - Social Media
 - Newsletter
 - Newspapers
 - Hanging up flyers in the community
 - Radio or Television

Connecting People

- Now that you've identified the need for volunteers, and recruited and trained them, it's time to connect people.
- When it comes to peer support, volunteers want to be needed!
 - Don't train them then not use them!
- Volunteers play a vital role in connecting people to one another and the community.

Resources

Examples of volunteer program applications

- CILWW Driver Application
 - Included with workshop materials
- Stepping Stones of Dunn County
 - [Stepping Stones volunteer application](#)
- United Way
 - [United Way volunteer application](#)

Questions

- What more do you want to know and learn about using volunteers in Independent Living?