

NEAT Peer Project Summary

What is This Project All About??



The big goal of the NEAT Peer Project is to build strong peer to peer connections between the Self-Advocacy groups in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The project will help states to develop a group of peer mentors who will teach other Self-Advocates in their states about social media and being a leader. This project will last 3 years, starting on October 1, 2013.



Who Is Part of this Project?



The groups working on this project are New York (Self Advocacy Association of New York State), Vermont (Green Mountain Self-Advocates), Massachusetts (Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong), Rhode Island (Advocates in Action Rhode Island, Inc.), New Hampshire (People First of New Hampshire), and Maine (Speaking Up For Us of Maine).

NEAT Advisory Committee



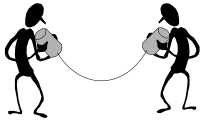
Each state has picked 4 people (3 Self-Advocates and 1 Ally) to be on an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will be in charge of making sure the NEAT project is meeting its goals and listening to the states equally. Advisory Committee voices speak for their local and state Self-Advocacy groups and DD Networks.



What Outcomes or Goals Do We Have for this Project?

1. We want our states self-advocates to give each other help and information more often and on a schedule.





2. We want more peer-to-peer communication with Self-Advocates in other states.



3. We want State Self-Advocacy organizations to get better at the things they say they need help with.



4. We want State Self-Advocacy organizations to work more officially with DD Network programs and other partners.

5. We want to train Self-Advocates in social networking



6. We want to make it easier for self-advocacy groups to work on trainings, projects, advocacy opportunities, etc.



7. We want self-advocates to understand other peers issues.

8. We want to make it easier for self-advocates to use the internet and mobile devices



9. We want to see self-advocate peers say they feel less alone and more connected

10. We want more people to join local Self-Advocacy groups



11. We want more new and younger leaders in Self-Advocacy movement

12. We want our states to apply for more funding and grants.



13. We want to have better skills around fundraising and making our organizations strong.

What Will Each State Need to Do for this Project?

Participate in trainings on social media and using websites.



Conduct a Needs Assessment. States will use the Need Assessment you did for the 2011-2012 Self-Advocacy Summits as a starting place. You could use a survey, interview, focus group, or other way! The goal of the needs assessment is to figure out what your state's strengths and weaknesses are.

Write a state plan that talks about your states' strengths and areas for improvement or growth. Make sure to list which needs are the most important to you. You will work with peers from other states to help decide how to do your plan.



Talk with other states and work with other states! Be willing to learn new skills and to teach the skills you already are good at!

Keep track of your activities and trainings and report them to the Project Coordinator



What Will the NEAT Advisory Committee Do for the Project?

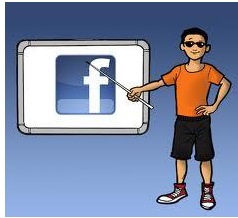


The NEAT Advisory Committee will read through all the state plans and create a large regional plan. This plan will match up groups together for teaching and learning new skills.

Make sure the states are talking to each other regularly.



Make sure that a website and social media pages are built. They tools will keep everyone connected.



Make sure all peer leaders get trained on using social media tools and website tools. They will recruit Self-Advocates with social media knowledge to make an accessible user guide for the social media tools we want to



use. These peer leaders will then use the guides to train their state Self-Advocacy members on how to use the tools.



Will help each state make a way to track progress towards each of their state goals.



Work with Disability Rights Vermont to keep track of grant money and to make sure grant reports are turned in on time.

Supervise the Project Coordinator.

