

# Creating a SLN Sibling Chapter

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Sibling Leadership Network is a national organization composed of self-advocates, siblings, family members, and professionals looking to *“provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support, and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families.”*

Starting a sibling chapter requires passionate individuals interested in building a network of like-minded individuals interested in supporting siblings and their family members to lead enviable lives, increase awareness, and advocate for policies and services to support all family members both at the local and state level.

Below are the most frequently asked questions for starting a state SLN Sibling Chapter.

### 1. How do I get in touch with other siblings and other individuals interested in sibling issues?

- Join the SLN (Facebook, emails, etc. at <http://www.siblingleadership.org/join-sln/>)
- Join SibNet (<http://www.siblingsupport.org/connect/the-sibnet-listserv>)
- Identify local sibling networks
- Talk with family and friends

### 2. Where can our SLN Chapter be housed?

- State chapters of The Arc
- University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- Independently (requires establishing a 501 (c)(3))
- Any organization that recognizes the need to support adult siblings

### 3. We are interested in starting a statewide network where we live. How do we go about joining as an official SLN chapter?

- All it takes is 3 people with the same goal: Creating a statewide group for siblings
- Create a name for your organization
- Agree to support the mission and values of the SLN

### 4. Once we have an “official” group, what do we do next?

- Identify other siblings across your state using press releases, social networks and local organizations
- With a core membership, identify your organization’s mission and values
- Identify a pre-existing state group that you can model
- Determine your next steps—Do you want regional or community meetings? Do you want to plan outreach?

