

NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR SELF ADVOCACY
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TRAINING MODULE #1: EMPLOYMENT

The employment module is designed for self-advocates interested in finding a job. It includes information about the various places and approaches one can use to find a job (i.e. newspaper, internet, career fairs, etc.) There is an interactive activity on how to look in the paper for a job. The module also discusses how to fill out an application, how to prepare for an interview, what to wear to an interview, and what to expect in an interview. There is a role playing activity regarding the interview process. A power point presentation, handouts, and interactive activities accompany this module.

TRAINING MODULE #2: COMMUNICATION & RELATIONSHIPS FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The training module on relationships, friendships, and communication includes a booklet with different ideas about places to go with friends or on a date. . This is a statewide directory with no cost, low cost and high cost ideas. Maps and directions are included in the booklet. The module talks about conversation starters and has a role-playing activity on ideas of what to say when you meet new people. It also has a section on dealing with conflict, understanding body language, and what is sexual harassment. In addition to the dating idea booklet, the module includes a power point presentation and handouts.

TRAINING MODULE #3: MARRIAGE WITHOUT PENALTIES

The “Marriage without Penalties” module focuses on what happens to individuals’ social security benefits when they get married. The treatment of marriage with regard to SSI benefits produces unfavorable consequences for people who are married. The module presents ideas on solving the problem and some alternatives. It includes a videotape of a couple from Las Cruces who tell their personal story. The module is a model for how to get involved and advocate for change. Creating change, whether on the personal level, organizational level, or on a systems level, is at the heart of self-advocacy. This module is about building the foundation for strong self-advocacy on all levels. Participants will emerge from this learning experience with new skills, strategies, and bolder dreams.

TRAINING MODULE #4: TRANSPORTATION

The transportation module discusses four different types of transportation available to people with disabilities and how to qualify and get enrolled. A mailer is being produced with specific strategies and tips on making the transportation experience a successful one. The advocates developed a brochure that includes information on advocate rights in terms of transportation (i.e. who to call if there are problems, etc). There is also a script for people to use when setting an appointment with a transportation company. The module has suggestions for how to partner with transportation companies in order to get excellent service. This module includes role playing activities and handouts.

TRAINING MODULE #5: EMPLOYER AWARENESS

The Employer Awareness Module is designed for self advocates to present to potential employers of people with disabilities. It offers specific information on orienting new employees to the workplace, making a job manageable, building positive relationships in the workplace, seeking help, and benefits to employers. The module includes a presenter's script, power point presentation, and handouts.

TRAINING MODULE #6: DD WAIVER AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

The DD Waiver and other Funding Sources Module includes brochures for each funding source that articulate how to qualify, what to expect, what you need to sign up, how long can you expect to wait, how to stay qualified, what the service offers, and who you can contact for more information. The advocates and graduate students produced a "monopoly type" game about the DD Waiver . The game board depicts different scenarios that could happen while applying for and receiving services.