

NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR SELF ADVOCACY
3900 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
(505) 341-0036

The NM Center for Self Advocacy is a special project funded by the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), through an appropriation by the 2004 NM Legislature. The project is a collaborative effort between DDPC, the University of New Mexico (UNM), and New Mexico Highlands University.

The purpose of the Center is to provide a space where self advocates can organize, meet, work, and train others on different aspects of self advocacy. In the Fall of 2004, nine self advocates developed training modules with graduate students from UNM's Special Education Department. The self advocates identified topics of interest and then prioritized six areas for training. They chose topics that increase their skills to become empowered, informed and secure in their ability to speak for themselves, make their own decisions and stand up for their rights. The modules include:

- Understanding the array of funding sources and how to apply for them.(i.e. DD Waiver, State General Fund, Ticket to Work, etc).
- Learning about how to find a job and encouraging employers to hire people with disabilities.
- Changing mindsets and educating the public about people with disabilities.
- Getting involved in local, state, and federal issues regarding developmental disability issues and advocating for change.
- Receiving specialized training and workshops regarding issues that are not traditionally offered: (i.e. communication, relationships, and resolving conflicts).

These modules are being used to train other self advocates state-wide and nationally. Additional training modules will be developed in the Fall of 2005.

The Center is located at 3900 Osuna Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87109 (within the new Adelante building). The phone number is (505) 341-0036 or (505) 341-0580.

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