

Why would I want to Participate in the Family Leadership Training Program?

The Family Leadership Training Program will build your knowledge and skills and help you advocate more effectively for your child and family. Also, family leaders can assist a deaf-blind project by increasing the awareness of deaf-blindness; supporting other families and helping develop effective programs, services and legislation.

Selection for participation will be based on the participant's:

- Interest and enthusiasm for participating in the training
- Ability to commit to attending face-to-face training sessions held between November 2008 and September 2009
- Ability to commit to 6-7 one-hour conference calls between November 2008 and September 2009
- Ability to commit to setting and working on a leadership goal during the 12 month period

Participants will have all travel and participation expenses paid for.

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What is the Family Leadership Training Program?

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON DEAF-BLINDNESS



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NCDB Family Leadership Training Program

About the Training Program

NCDB provides an intensive one-year family leadership training program in 1- 3 states each year. Six to ten participants are selected to participate in each state. The goal of the program is to train and support family members of children who are deaf-blind to become leaders within deaf-blindness in their local or state communities. During the program, family members identify and pursue meaningful leadership roles based on their interests and strengths. Examples include the following:

- Mentoring and supporting other families
- Serving on advisory committees or boards
- Increasing awareness of deaf-blindness by telling their story to the media
- Providing activities for sibling groups
- Providing training to families and professionals

A core training curriculum, which will be customized to fit the needs of the participants, will be used for the training.



Key Training Topics

Understanding Deaf-Blindness

- Federal Program for deaf-blindness
- The deaf-blind census, national and state
- Impact of deaf-blindness on learning, families and quality of life

Understanding Systems and Opportunities for Family Leadership

- Community, social, educational, medical, legislative and adult service systems

Understanding Leadership

- Defining family leadership
- Characteristics of leaders
- Elements of change

Communication Skills

- Communication styles
- Active listening
- Principle-based negotiation

Partnership and Collaboration Skills

- Personal/professional resources
- Collaboration and leadership
- Group dynamics and development

Advocacy Skills

- Telling your story
- Public speaking
- Writing skills: letters, newspaper stories, articles

Maintaining your Personal Life Balance

- Relaxation and regeneration activities
- Keeping your life in balance

Optional Training Topics

Training Skills

- Learning styles
- Adult learning strategies
- Presentation skills

Loss and the Grieving Process

- Impact on families
- Relating to people in crisis

Connecting with Families: Building Relationships and Involvement

- Activities to introduce and connect families
- Identifying the needs of families
- Including the whole family

Cultural Competence Skills

- Understanding and respecting beliefs, attitudes, values
- Identifying underserved populations
- Outreach strategies

