



LEAP's mission is to advance a society of equal opportunity for all persons, regardless of disability.

PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW

Lack of access to information & assistance related to long-term care, income supports, housing, transportation, health care, personal care assistance, & assistive technology can prevent individuals from achieving independence in one or more significant life areas. LEAP works to implement local, state, & federal policies to make facilities, services, & opportunities available, affordable, & accessible to individuals w/disabilities.

GOAL: Increase the availability and improve the quality of community options for individuals w/significant disabilities and to conduct activities that increase the capacity of communities to meet the needs of those individuals.

PUBLIC POLICY: To improve the lives of individuals w/disabilities and their family members through strengthened public policies for equal access.

LEAP's Public Policy work focuses on policies and practices affecting people with disabilities. We do this by:

- Advocating for legislation & policy changes on the local, state, and national levels to create equal opportunities for people w/disabilities, as well as improved public awareness of the concerns & needs of people w/disabilities.
- Sponsoring activities and training sessions for community members who want to help educate policy makers and the general public about these issues.
- Encouraging others to take action by distributing legislative updates and alerts and by sponsoring advocacy training, visits to legislators, and educational events.
- Collaborating and networking with coalitions and partnerships to expand the participation of people with disabilities in their communities.

LEAP reviews and selects its advocacy priorities annually. Specific areas of concern include civil rights, voting rights, employment, education, housing, public transportation, independent living, health care, long-term-care services and supports, and the role of government and public funding in public policy.

ADVOCACY: To advance public policy and systems advocacy priorities in order to tackle unmet needs or deal with emerging needs in the community in the areas of:

- Home and Community-Based Services
- Employment Opportunities
- Collaborating & Networking: building coalitions or collaborative partnerships designed to expand participation of persons w/significant disabilities in communities & participating w/others who share mission to affect change.
- Access to Benefits and Resources
- Equity and Nondiscrimination

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: LEAP pursues collaboration combined action with partners across key sectors to innovate and develop new models of integrated, community-based services for persons with disabilities to achieve greater impact of our mission and reach diverse populations, and to achieve greater sustainability, serve as a good steward of public resources and deepen the impact of our mission.

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