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Vera Center on Victimization + Safety



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

The 2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series has Ended.

Please look for information about our 2019 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series coming soon!

A Note From CVS: We apologize for the technical difficulties you may have experienced in our webinars. We are aware of the issue and are exploring solutions to continue our dedication to accessible webinars while also creating a smoother user experience. If you have specific questions or concerns about

Listening, Believing and Collaborating: Self-Advocates Leading the Way

By: Leslie Myers, Senior Program Associate

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are among the most marginalized people in our society and are subjected to high rates of violence and abuse. The self-advocacy movement has encouraged people with I/DD to speak out on their own behalf, including on issues of abuse.

Vera values the leadership of self-advocates in working to end violence and has made a commitment to support their effort to become leaders in the anti-violence field. To do this, we brought together a group of leaders within the self-advocacy movement who were anxious to become leaders but lacked the connections and tools to do so.

Over several years, self-advocates led us through the development of a curriculum that would help other self-advocates provide peer support to individuals with disabilities in their communities who have experienced violence and abuse.

"Peer-to-Peer: Bridging the Gap Through Self-Advocacy" was born from this work. The curriculum follows a path to help self-advocates become "peer supporters" and be the bridge between the person who was hurt and the programs that can help them. A "peer supporter" is someone who:

the webinars, please email Ashley Brompton at abrompton@vera.org.

Don't forget - you can view all of our archived [webinars](#) on our [End Abuse of People with Disabilities website](#).



Share Your Ideas!

Do you have ideas about issues we could highlight in our monthly newsletter, topics for our monthly webinar series, or information about new initiatives that seek justice for people with disabilities? We want your feedback! Take advantage of this feature in our newsletter and submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing cvs@vera.org.

- Has learned about domestic and sexual violence in the lives of people with disabilities;
- Understands how to work with other people and systems to support a friend; and
- Has learned about the services provided by community services programs.

The goal of this work is to cultivate the leadership of self-advocates in the work to end domestic and sexual violence against people with disabilities. To learn more about the importance of including self-advocates in the movement, visit the [Promote Equality page](#) on the End Abuse of People with Disabilities website.



In the News

The 2018 Disability Grant Program awards have been announced. Five communities across the United States have received funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to improve their responses to survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence who have disabilities. Communities in Utah, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Iowa will spend the next three years working on making their services more accessible and safe for people with disabilities. Congratulations to all!

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