

Fundamental Element #1

Staff and Volunteers Are Trained in Basic Disability Awareness

When you plan trainings for your DV and SA staff and volunteers, remember to include information about basic disability awareness. Service providers should become aware of the need to provide accessible programs, communication and buildings to all clients, including those with disabilities. Accessibility includes providing an environment where clients with disabilities feel welcomed and accepted. Disability awareness training should be incorporated into your ongoing training provided each year.

Using the training manual, Basic Disability Awareness, (a free copy was mailed to your agency), you can provide opportunities for participants to learn about:

- Misconceptions about disability
- Strategies on how to interact effectively with people with disabilities
- How to improve access to services
- Ways to provide outreach to people with disabilities.

If you did not receive the manual, please contact the NC Office on Disability and Health at 919-966-0871 or dickens@mail.fpg.unc.edu.

Partner with a disability organization in your community or a person with disability to co-facilitate the trainings. The personal experience of a person with a disability can be an invaluable resource and perspective. To develop a disability partner, you might consider contacting some agencies in your community such as an Arc chapter, Center for Independent Living, MS Society Chapter, Hearing Loss Association Chapter, Center for Independent Living of Vocational Rehabilitation, Family Support Network, or others.

Let us know when you implement Fundamental Element #1.

Send us your stories, strategies, or pictures!



For more information or assistance, call

NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence: 1-888-232-9124 (toll free)

NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault: 1-888-737-2272 (toll free)

Access for All Project: 919-966-0871 or 919-843-3811(TTY)

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