



Together We're Making a Difference!

6/28/2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We're excited to send you the enclosed application for the Advocates in Action RI Leadership Series Class of 2018. We hope you'll take a moment to review this material and share it with others who may be interested. The application form is also available in PDF format on our website at www.advocatesinaction.org.

Advocates in Action RI developed the Leadership Series to help people learn how to speak up for themselves and others, be in charge of their own lives, and raise disability awareness in the community.

Some of the topics that students will be introduced to include the following:

- Current Issues Related to the RI Developmental Disabilities Service System
- Disability Rights
- Exercising Your Right to Vote
- How Government Works
- Individualized Choice and Informed Decisions
- Person Centered Planning
- Personal Introduction Skills and Qualities of an Effective Leader
- Public Speaking
- Segregation and Community Integration
- Self-Advocacy ... *and Lots More!*



The Leadership Series curriculum includes pictures, video, audio, games and other interactive media that make the information accessible and easy to understand. As a result, students do not need to have any specific level of reading or writing skills in order to take the class. Participation is open to all Rhode Islanders who have a developmental disability. Family members, support staff and allies are also invited to apply and accompany individuals on our shared learning adventures.

The Series begins with an all-day kick-off retreat which will take place in late August/early September. Classes run from September thru June and will take place twice a month from 1:00pm-3:00pm on Wednesday afternoons.

In addition, there are also homework assignments and extra events to attend between classes, including RI's 2017 Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy conference on Thursday, October 26th. Class members will also be the presenters at Rhode Island's Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Meeting in March, 2018. Everyone who completes the Series graduates at a formal ceremony in June.

The Leadership Series is made possible with support from the RI Department of BHDDH. While there is no cost to attend, space is limited.

Everyone who is interested in joining the Leadership Series Class of 2018 needs to submit their completed application and 2 letters of reference no later than Friday, August 4th, 2017. We will contact each applicant and invite them to an informal group interview in August. Everyone who applies must attend the group interview in order to be considered for this year's class.

It is very important that Leadership Series members have a current e-mail address that we can use to stay connected throughout the year. This is a requirement for all applicants! Individuals who don't use e-mail should include the name and address of their preferred contact person on the application (i.e.: a family member, support person or friend).

Thank you in advance for sharing this information with others who may be interested. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, or need assistance with the application process. Together we're making a difference!

We hope to hear from you soon,

The Advocates in Action RI Leadership Series Team

PO Box 41528

Providence RI 02940-1528

www.AdvocatesinAction.org



Advocates in Action Rhode Island
Leadership Series Class of 2018 Application
 Use BLACK INK to Complete this 3-Page Form and DO NOT STAPLE
Applications are Due by Friday, August 4th, 2017



The Leadership Series is for RI residents who have an intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), family members, support staff & allies. Applicants must be age 16 or older.

Name:

Address:

| | | |
|-------|--------|------|
| City: | State: | Zip: |
|-------|--------|------|

Primary Phone: () home () cell () work

Alternate Phone: () home () cell () work

Class members must be able to access e-mail and the internet. Include your e-mail address, or the name and address of a family member, friend, or support agency who will be helping you with this.

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Name: | E-mail: |
|-------|---------|

How did you hear about the Leadership Series?

Contact Person *(this is optional, but helpful if we need additional information and cannot reach you)*

Contact Name:

Affiliation (What is their relationship to you?):

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Primary Phone: | Alternate Phone: |
|----------------|------------------|

E-mail:



This is a 3-Page Application! The complete application and two (2) Letters of Reference are due by:
Friday, August, 4th 2017



We will contact you once we receive your application.
 If you don't hear from us, please call our office at 877-532-5543.
 If your application is accepted, you'll be invited to an informal group interview in August.
Everyone who wants to be in the Leadership Series Class needs to attend an interview.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>Mail Applications To: Advocates in Action Rhode Island Box 41528 Providence, RI 02940-1528</p> | <p>Contact Us with Questions: Phone: (877) 532-5543 E-mail: leaders@advocatesinaction.org On-line: www.advocatesinaction.org</p> |
|--|---|---|

Check the boxes below and provide whatever information applies:

- I am a person with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD)
- Someone in my immediate family has an I/DD
- I use a wheelchair/walker/scooter

Note: Advocates in Action cannot provide personal care assistance. If you need to bring a support person with you, they should complete a separate application so that the 2 of you can take the class together. We welcome and encourage support staff to join the Leadership Series!

- I need to bring a support person to assist me in class. Their name is:

- I am a support person. The name of the person I will be assisting in class is:

List any allergies, medical concerns or accessibility accommodations that we should be aware of:

Answer the Following Three Questions.

If you need to use extra paper, put your name on each page. Do not staple the pages together.



Tell us about yourself. Do you have a job, do volunteer work, go to school, belong to any social, sports, or other clubs?



List five words that describe you:



SAY "CHEESE"!



As part of your application,
e-mail us a photograph of yourself.
Include your name in the subject line!

Our address is:

leaders@advocatesinaction.org



Why do you want to be in the Leadership Series? What do you hope to learn?

Applicants must send one of each of the following **Letters of Reference by Friday, August 4th, 2017:**



- ♦ PERSONAL ie: family member, neighbor, team/club member, or friend
- ♦ PROFESSIONAL ie: teacher, coach, employer, Self-Advocacy group, agency director

Ask your references to send us a letter that describes how they know you, and why they believe that you should be in the Leadership Series Class.

Write the names and contact information for the people who are sending your letters of reference:

| <u>PERSONAL REFERENCE:</u> |
|----------------------------|
| Name: |
| Relationship: |
| Phone: |
| E-mail: |

| <u>PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE:</u> |
|--------------------------------|
| Name: |
| Relationship: |
| Phone: |
| E-mail: |

Return Your Leadership Series Application No Later Than Friday, August 4th

Advocates in Action RI ♦ Box 41528 ♦ Providence ♦ RI ♦ 02940-1528

Leadership Series classes take place twice a month on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the Advocates in Action RI Office on 662 Hartford Avenue in Providence. Additional student activities and events include the following:

- Attend the Kick-Off Retreat. This will be on a Wednesday in late August, or early September, 2017. The retreat runs from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The date will be announced in July.
- Participate in RI's Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference on Thursday, October 26th, 2017.
- Present with this years's class at RI's Statewide Self-Advocacy Meeting in March 2018.
- Attend additional class-related events, meetings and presentations (schedule permitting).
- Complete homework and work on group projects outside of class.
- In addition, class members must have the ability (with, or without assistance) to send and receive e-mail, access the internet, and stay connected with AinA by phone or text message throughout the year. Space for the Leadership Series is limited. Once we receive your application, you will be invited to a group interview in August. We hope to hear from you soon!

Signature or Mark of Applicant

Date

| | |
|---|---------|
| If someone assisted you to complete this application, please provide the following information: | |
| Name: | |
| Relationship to Applicant: | |
| Phone: | E-mail: |