

ADVOCACY ACADEMY 2025



WHAT IS ADVOCACY ACADEMY?

Advocacy Academy is an opportunity to get involved in the Disability Rights Movement and learn advanced leadership!

It is an 8 week paid summer job where participants will choose a disability advocacy issue to learn about and then create an advocacy campaign around that issue.

Participants will learn about:

- The history of the Disability Rights Movement in the United States
- The skills of advocacy
- Personal leadership
- Working in a group
- Workplace skills
- Planning and implementing a disability advocacy project



Advocacy Academy provides valuable experience and training which can be applied to other life experiences. Many of our previous participants have received employment recommendations based on their Advocacy Academy work performance.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPECTATIONS

Six individuals will be selected to participate in this year's Advocacy Academy program.

We are seeking applicants who:

- Are between 16–29 years of age
- Are able to commit to the entire 8 week position
- Lived experience with disability a plus
- Are motivated to increase their leadership skills

Selected participants are expected to be present for all sessions (see Schedule below for more details) and participate in the advocacy project process.

This is a paid position at **\$15.00** per hour.

ADVOCACY ACADEMY SCHEDULE

Participants are expected to be at each session. Advocacy Academy meets on **Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday afternoons** from **12:00 to 4:00 PM** from **June 9 to July 30, 2025**.

A graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, **July 30, 2025**.

LOCATION

Advocacy Academy is held in the Community Building at Disability Network's Kalamazoo office, located at 517 E Crosstown Pkwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49001.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ADVOCACY ACADEMY

To apply for this year's Advocacy Academy, email or mail us your resume along with answers to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in learning about the Disability Rights Movement and advocacy?
2. What does advocacy mean to you?
3. What leadership skills do you want to develop?
4. Please describe your experience with disability.



Send your resume and answers to the above questions to Holly Baker by email or mail. Please let us know if you need an accommodation to apply.

Email: bakerh@dnswm.org

Mail: Disability Network Southwest Michigan
Advocacy Academy Application
c/o Holly Baker
517 E Crosstown Pkwy
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DEADLINE

Applications must be received by **Monday, May 12, 2025.**

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the application process please contact Holly Baker.

Email: bakerh@dnswm.org

Phone: (269) 345-1516 x121



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