



MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
YOUNG ADULT LEADERS FELLOWSHIP
YOUNG ADULTS WITH ASD AND/OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Massachusetts Advocates for Children invites young adults 18-26 with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Intellectual Disability to apply for a state-of-the-art Young Adult Leaders Fellowship that offers an opportunity to learn the professional skills needed to advocate on behalf of other youth with disabilities. The Fellowship is a partnership between Massachusetts Advocates for Children and the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. The Young Adult Leaders Fellowship involves a one year part-time advocacy training under the direction of the Autism Center advocate and senior attorney. This is a half-time time fellowship, and a small stipend is provided.

The Young Adult Leaders Fellowship will include working with and learning from MAC staff as they conduct MAC's three core advocacy and training activities, including advocacy for individual students, legislative and policy advocacy, and training for parents and professionals. In addition to office tasks, the Fellowship will also include active participation in a range of advocacy and training activities with close direction and leadership (for example testifying at the State House, co-presenting at trainings, attending IEP meetings). If the Fellow is able to use Word, Excel and other office computer programs or is willing to learn computer applications and programs that is helpful. The Fellow will also be expected to work on the MAC database and on other office duties in addition to attending educational IEP Team meetings, policy meetings at the State House, and trainings for parents and professionals.

It is expected that after a period of job shadowing in each advocacy and training activity area, and with additional training from MAC staff, the Fellow will participate in meetings bringing their unique viewpoint as consumers of special education services and supports.

The Fellowship will provide:

- Training and work experience at MAC for one year under the supervision of a MAC attorney and MAC's Autism Center advocate.
- Peer mentoring with MAC law school student interns
- Learning and performing key office tasks
- Participation in meetings with schools, legislators and parent groups to bring their unique viewpoint as self-advocates.
- Training in the expectations for working in an office. Experience and training with computers, office equipment, office procedures and office social skills.

The Fellowship will begin in April of 2015

For questions and/or to send information contact Catherine Mayes, Mass Advocates for Children
617-357-8431 x241, cmayes@massadvocates.org

MAC staff will select the Fellow from applications submitted. Preference will be given to a young adult with autism spectrum disorder and/or intellectual disability who possesses some knowledge, experience, and/or awareness of the advocacy and special education process and who shows an interest in working collaboratively with coworkers in shared office space. MAC is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a diverse, welcoming and safe workplace.

Please send the application to the attention of Catherine Mayes, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, 25 Kingston Street, 2nd Floor, Boston MA 02111 **by March 15, 2015**

**YOUNG ADULT LEADERS FELLOWSHIP
APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____

Phone Numbers _____
(Home) (Cell)

E-Mail _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional) _____

How did you learn about the Young Adult Leaders Fellowship?

What kind of disability do you have? Autism ____ Intellectual Disability ____ other ____

Please Include:

1. Resume or description of applicable experience.
2. Names, address and phone numbers or emails of for three references. These can be supervisors at work sites, teachers, and/or people who know you from community activities you volunteered at or participated in.
3. **Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper using 300 words or less:**
 - a) Why would you like to learn skills to advocate for others?
 - b) What experience have you already had advocating for yourself or others. Briefly include your special education experience, knowledge and personal experiences that led to your interest in applying for the Young Adult Leader Fellowship

Short Answers (of 5 sentences or less) to the following questions:

4. Did you attend your IEP meetings? If yes, what was that like, what did you learn about yourself?
5. What is your ability with computers? Can you use Word? Excel? PowerPoint? Or are you willing to learn?
6. How do you feel about sharing an office with other people?



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