



## ADVOCATES IN ACTION

Be The Voice. INSILC.

### Overview

**Advocates in Action** is an advanced **leadership** and **systemic advocacy** program in Indiana that builds greater capacity within disability change agents. It is a **5-month** long training and practicum that brings **diverse national disability rights leaders** to Indianapolis to work with local disability leaders to create a network of strong advocates who will **Be The Voice** for change in Indiana.

- **Advocates in Action** is a **competitive** program *for* people with disabilities, *by* people with disabilities. Through a **competitive** application process, INSILC will select a cohort of 12-15 people with **ALL kinds of disabilities**.
- **Advocates in Action** takes place in **Indianapolis** over the course of **5 Sessions** from **June-October, 2019**. Travel, room/board, food and accommodation-related costs are covered by INSILC.

June 14 & 15, 2019

July 12 & 13, 2019

August 23 & 24, 2019

September 20 & 21, 2019

October 11 & 12, 2019

- **Advocates in Action** is a program committed to an **intersectional** approach to **disability justice**, and the successful candidate will fight for ALL people with disabilities and identities.
- **Advocates in Action** is looking for strong advocates who recognize the importance of growth and change, who value teamwork, and who are committed to long-term change through action.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 12, 2019

\*\*Please read "Program Details" for an expanded explanation of the program goals and expectations of participants.\*\*

Advocates may also submit an online application (<https://www.insilc.org/aia-app/>) submit this PDF copy of the application via email or post.

## Program Details

The Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC) with support from the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is proud to launch the first **Advocates in Action!**

**Advocates in Action** is an advanced leadership and systemic advocacy training program and practicum in Indiana that builds greater capacity within disability change agents. This program was specifically created just for people with disabilities in an effort to bolster the ability to affect public policy and foster social change within our communities and the state, advancing the independence, productivity, and inclusion of our peers with disabilities in all aspects of society.

**Advocates in Action** might be for you, if:

- You are a person with a disability;
- You have experience in disability advocacy and social change;
- You have a commitment to broad, systemic and social change that recognizes the assertion that "disability rights are civil rights";
- You believe that systemic and social change occurs through multiple methods:
  - Serving your community by bringing the disability voice to the table in both disability and non-disability related organizations and entities;
  - Performing direct actions to bring attention to current disability rights issues;
- Educating the disability community, the general public, and policymakers on issues that impact our peers with disabilities;
- You would like to strengthen and advance your existing advocacy skills by refining your knowledge of communication, community organizing and leadership, and public policy education/influence;
- You believe that personal and professional growth involves stretching your limits;
- You have a commitment to disability justice that includes other intersecting identities.

**Advocates in Action** offers:

- Intensive, highly-interactive training from leading national disability rights experts (with disabilities) on disability leadership & advocacy;
- Mentoring from national subject-matter experts (with disabilities) on systems change, intersectional justice, legislative policy influence, leadership and professional/personal development, etc.
- Ongoing technical assistance from program trainers and experts (with disabilities) in the field;
- A practicum that includes required strategic group/individual project activities, the creation of personal systems advocacy goals, action plans with measurable metrics, and with hands-on training and guidance.

**Advocates in Action** strengthens and enhances:

- Effective, solution-oriented advocacy skills;
- Persuasive communications in conflict resolution and negotiations;
- Knowledge of navigation of local, state, and national political systems;
- Project planning and implementation;
- Event & Grassroots organizing proficiencies;
- Community-building understanding;
- Effective leadership capabilities.

INSILC believes in the power of advocacy and recognizes that Indiana is not only in need of a stronger disability voice... Indiana is in need of a strong disability advocacy network led by individuals with disabilities achieving strong advocacy outcomes. In the current political climate, the lives and rights of people with disabilities are consistently under attack. We need an Army of Advocates (with Disabilities). The time is now for people with disabilities to have more than just a token seat at the table! It is time for people with disabilities to be truly heard and acknowledged and to be mentors, advocates and activists. It's time for the "voiceless" with disabilities to empower others living with disabilities to BE THE VOICE and learn how to lead and become **Advocates in Action**.

People with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Advocacy is not a "one size fits all" approach. **Advocates in Action** will facilitate the development of the unique advocacy skills and passion each Advocate brings to the table so that each Advocate can reach their full potential and maximum effectiveness. The program and practicum will provide experiential training in the following focus areas of advocacy work: Community Leadership, Direct Action and Education & Awareness.

Joining **Advocates in Action** is a commitment to:

- Attend five training sessions in the Indianapolis area over the course of 5 months. Travel, room/board, food and accommodation-related costs are covered by INSILC;
- Complete task assignments, projects, and actions outside of sessions
- Continue advocacy/activism work after the program ends by joining the network of advocates and responding to action alerts;
- Continue to be involved in Community Leadership, Direct Action, and Education & Awareness opportunities, appropriate.

Participation in **Advocates in Action** signals that you are committed to being a long-term leader who works to ensure that you and your peers with disabilities help to shape the policies and systems that impact us. **Advocates in Action** is guided by the Independent Living motto, "Nothing About Us, Without Us," and the INSILC motto, "Be The Voice."

# Application

**Advocates in Actionis** an advanced advocacy training program for people with all types of disabilities held in Indianapolis over five sessions during 2019:

- June 14 & 15, 2019
- July 12 & 13, 2019
- August 23 & 24, 2019
- September 20 & 21, 2019
- October 11 & 12, 2019

Although costs are fully covered for Advocates to participate in the program, a substantial commitment of time and effort is required. Please review the program summary above. If you can agree to the commitment and have a willingness to step outside your comfort zone, please complete the online application and submit it to us **no later than May 12, 2019**.

Advocates may also submit a PDF copy by email to [asekhar@insilc.org](mailto:asekhar@insilc.org) or via post (must be postmarked by May 12, 2019):

Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council  
P.O. Box 801  
Danville, IN 46122

## Applicant Information

### Name \*

First Name      Last Name

### Preferred Gender Pronouns (optional)

e.g. She/Her/Hers; He/Him/His; They/Them/Theirs

### Email \*

example@example.com

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

**Phone Number (Best number to reach you)**

Area Code    Phone Number

This is a cell phone

This is not a cell phone

**How did you hear about Advocates in Action? (Click all that apply)**

Email list-serve

Social Media

Disability-related group

Disability Advocate

Friend

Family

Work colleague

**Do you have readily available access to the Internet?**

Yes

No

## Demographic Information (Confidential)

### Gender

Male

Female

### Age

18-25

26-35

36-45

46-60

61-70

71+

### Annual Household Income

\$0 - \$15,000

\$15,001 - 25,000

\$25,001 - \$35,000

\$35,001 - \$50,000

\$50,001 - \$65,000

\$65,000 +

### Race/Ethnicity

African-American

Asian

Caucasian

Hispanic

Native American

### I identify as someone with a disability. \*

Yes

No

### My disability occurred before the age of 22 and affects me significantly in several life areas. \*

Yes

No

### I am a person with a disability and a parent or caregiver of a person with a disability. \*

Yes

No

**Please list all household members including yourself (confidential).**

First and Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant	Gender	Disability, if applicable
1				
2				
3				
4				

## Application

\*\*\*NOTE: This section of the application has several paragraph response questions. If you wish to respond to them in multiple sessions, please save your PDF each time you edit!

**Why are you interested in participating in Advocates in Action?**

**What previous experience do you have with disability advocacy? Other forms of advocacy?**

**What is your greatest accomplishment as an advocate? Why?**

**What do you think are the top three most pressing issues facing people with disabilities today? Which of these issues interests you the most, and why?**

**8. What do you find to be the most effective method of advocacy and policy change? Why?**

**Why is it important to include ALL people with disabilities in your advocacy, even if they have other identities (e.g. race, gender, sexuality, etc.) that do not match yours? What does it mean to you to practice inclusive advocacy?**

**What is your strongest advocacy skill (e.g. writing, speaking to a crowd, organizing, presenting to a group, educating others, doing research)? Which skill do you need to work on the most? Why?**

**Give an example of a time when you went beyond your comfort zone in advocating for yourself or someone else and how your advocacy grew in the process.**

**What do you hope to learn from the Advocates in Action program? How do you plan to use this program to benefit the disability community?**

**Why do you think it is important to have people with disabilities leading advocacy for issues facing our community?**

**I will make a time commitment of two days once per month for 5 months.**

Yes

No

**I am employed and have talked with my employer to arrange my work schedule.**

Yes

No

N/A

**I agree to complete all homework assignments/projects.**

Yes

No

N/A

**Are there any accommodations or assistance that you need to participate in this program? (for example: a PCA, transportation, childcare, ASL interpreter, CART, ADA hotel room, roll-in shower, large print, etc.)**

# References

## Reference 1

At least one reference must be able to speak to your advocacy experience.

### Name

First Name      Last Name

### Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City                      State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

### Preferred Number

Area Code      Phone Number

### Email

example@example.com

### Relationship

## Reference 2

At least one reference must be able to speak to your advocacy experience.

### Name

First Name      Last Name

### Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City                      State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

### Preferred Phone

Area Code      Phone Number

### Email

example@example.com

### Relationship

## Reference 3

At least one reference must be able to speak to your advocacy experience.

### Name

First Name      Last Name

### Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City                      State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

### Preferred Phone

Area Code      Phone Number

### Email

example@example.com

### Relationship

Please save and review your application before submitting via email to: [asekhar@insilc.org](mailto:asekhar@insilc.org)

or via post:

Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council  
P.O. Box 801  
Danville, IN 46122