



# the Vermont Leadership Series

What is it and why should you sign up?

**Find your voice and learn how to advocate for change!**

★ You can watch for updates to the series timeline at:

<http://ddc.vermont.gov/vtleadershipseries>

## What is the Vermont Leadership Series?

The Vermont Leadership Series is an intensive, three-part training that reflects the core values of the Disability Rights Movement -- Equal Rights, Self-Determination, and Full Community Inclusion. It is for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and family members.

### Leadership teaches participants how to:

- Develop skills to be an effective advocate and leader for systems change.
- Include people of all abilities and support others in finding their voice.
- Build relationships with policymakers.

## How are Leadership participants selected?

To be a candidate you must be nominated by one of two organizations. They'll talk to you about program requirements, why you're interested, and the application process.

- Green Mountain Self-Advocates is Vermont's statewide self-advocacy organization. Contact them by phone: [1 \(802\) 229-2600](tel:18022292600) or email: [max@gmsavt.org](mailto:max@gmsavt.org)
- Vermont Family Network is Vermont's statewide family support organization. Contact them by phone: [1 \(800\) 800-4005](tel:18008004005) or email: [Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org](mailto:Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org)

### Nominated Leadership participants:

- Feel comfortable speaking up and listen well to others.
- Are open to new ideas and "thinking outside of the box."
- Are eager to make a difference in their community.
- Do *not* need to know how to read or write.
- Do *not* need previous experience working with policy makers.

Please do not be afraid to contact either organization to talk about Leadership, nomination, and graduation. They want to help motivated people get involved.

## What does it mean to be a Leadership Series graduate?

Self-advocates and family members who have graduated the Leadership Series learned how to:

- Focus their energy to be effective.
- Talk about disability rights and advocacy.
- Connect with other leaders to achieve the same goal.
- Make positive change happen in their home and communities.
- Apply leadership skills to get good results.
- Get fired up and excited for new challenges.

## Sounds great! When do I apply?

Applications are accepted in the autumn. Visit the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council website (<http://ddc.vermont.gov/vtleadershipseries>) to watch for updates and download the application when it becomes available again.

Please note! It does not mean you are not a good candidate if you are not selected. Space is always limited and we encourage everyone to re-apply.

**The 2018 Leadership Series will take place on the weekends of  
October 21-22, 2017, December 2-3, 2017, and January 13-14, 2018.**

## Thank you for your interest in Leadership!

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### **Help is available to fill out the application.**

If you would like help or need an accommodation you should contact the Green Mountain Self-Advocates or the Vermont Family Network at the numbers above.

We are open to applications in a wide range of formats,  
including audio or video answers to the questions.

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