

REACH 2015 Conference Proposal for Funding Self-Advocate Registration

Need. The Reach 2015 conference will take place December 3-4, 2015 at LSUHSC Human Development Center. Louisiana APSE, Human Development Center, Advocacy Center and the Developmental Disabilities Council are sponsoring the REACH conference. The conference steering committee is hoping to attract 200-plus attendees from across the state for an Employment First conference that will include valuable information on topics including; Employment, SSA and other benefits, Transition, Post Secondary Education, Self Determination and Asset/Wealth accumulation.

The conference steering committee would like to encourage families and job seekers with disabilities to attend the REACH 2015 conference as presenters, mentors, ambassadors and conference attendees. In an effort to do so, the REACH 2015 steering committee is reaching out to our conference collaborators for self-advocate conference registration funding.

Goal/Objective(s). The Advocacy Center has committed financial support for ten (10) individual registrations for REACH 2015. We would like to request the Developmental Disabilities Council support an additional ten (10) individuals/self-advocates to attend the December 2015 conference.

Plan. We propose that the DD Council consider matching the REACH family and advocate funding of the Advocacy Center to provide ten (10) conference registrations for individuals with disabilities and their family members. The conference marketing and steering committees will reach out to a variety of individual and family support organizations, agencies and to have various individual mailing lists to solicit individuals who would like to attend and/or take part in the conference.

Expected Outcome. Having more individuals with disabilities and their family members and advocates attend this statewide conference on quality employment outcomes will increase the knowledge base of clients and family members so they may provide better advocacy and support.

Estimated Funding: Ten (10) conference registrations @ 160.00 (includes membership to national and Louisiana APSE) = \$1,160.00.