



Tennessee Allies in Self-Advocacy

A statewide self-advocacy network for people with disabilities

What is Tennessee Allies in Self-Advocacy (TASA)?

- A statewide network of individuals with disabilities and agencies committed to strengthening and enhancing self-advocacy among people with disabilities.
- A forum for members to discuss the successes and challenges experienced in efforts to become self-advocates.

Why is TASA necessary and important?

- It is often difficult for individuals with disabilities to learn to speak up for themselves and become their own self-advocates.
- Often, individuals and agencies that support people with disabilities assume that they know what is best for people with disabilities without allowing them to have their own voice to express their personal interests, needs, and desires.
- TASA aims to provide individuals with disabilities the tools, resources, and support they need to increase their ability to become self-advocates for themselves and the disability community.

Who belongs to TASA?

- Individuals with disabilities
- Family members
- Representatives from various state and community agencies

What are the primary goals for TASA?

TASA is focusing its efforts on developing a virtual Self-Advocacy Resource Center that supports individuals with disabilities in becoming self-advocates. The Resource Center is accessible at vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/tasa/ and offers informational resources, trainings, and peer support, led by self-advocates.



What are the responsibilities of TASA members?

- Attend meetings via videoconference in Memphis, Nashville or Knoxville or via teleconference
- Serve on a TASA subcommittee that helps develop the goals of TASA
- Act as a resource and liaison between TASA and self-advocates in the community
- Facilitate collaboration with community programs that promote self-advocacy
- Link TASA with self-advocacy resources in the community

How can I be a member of TASA?

- Contact Carol Rabideau, L.C.S.W.
(615) 936-5122 or carol.rabideau@vumc.org
Also available as resources are Developmental Disabilities Partner agencies/allies:
- Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, Emma Shouse, (615) 253-5368, www.tn.gov/cdd
- Disability Law & Advocacy Center, Anna Bass, (865) 670-2944 ext. 176, www.dlactn.org
- UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Jenness Roth, (901) 448-3737, www.uthsc.edu/bcdd/about/index.php