

The transition from the high school environment to living and working in the community presents young people with new situations where Self-Advocacy can be critical.

The *PathWays* is designed to empower and support young adults with developmental disabilities, ages 16-24, in achieving their Individual Self-Advocacy goals and dreams.

Using principles of Self-Advocacy, coaches and peers will work with individuals and their families to set personal goals, to complete the process of attaining those goals, and to be able to apply the skills of Self-Advocacy in future endeavors.

If you have questions about this exciting program, please contact Pam Goodman, Project Director, 708.508.2577

### *PathWays* Partners

LaGrange Area Department of Special Education

EmployAlliance/West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation

Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central High Schools

Lyons Township High School

Riverside Brookfield High School  
Helping Hand

*PathWays* is funded by a grant initiative through the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities



## *PathWays*

A Program to Support  
Self Advocacy in  
Young Adults with  
Developmental Disabilities

*An Invitation*

Self-Advocacy is about being able to make meaningful decisions that affect one's life and ultimately determine which life path will be taken.

*PathWays* is a new initiative designed to encourage young adults to more actively participate in the important discussions regarding their life plans.

Seventy five young adults with developmental disabilities, ages 16-24 years, will be selected to participate in this two-year program.

*High school partners are:*

Hinsdale South  
Hinsdale Central  
Lyons Township  
Riverside Brookfield  
LADSE

*Community Partners are:*

Helping Hand  
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry Business and Education  
Council Foundation/EmployAlliance

*PathWays* self advocacy program will support learning and experiences that will allow young adults to achieve their personal maximum Self-Advocacy. Through a team of an Advocacy Coach and a Peer Advocate, participants will be guided through a process of self discovery and advocacy skill building while setting their personal goals.

A unique feature of this program is a two-week Self-Advocacy Summer Academy where participants will refine their goals and skills.

While participants will be setting their own personal goals, ten additional areas of Self Advocacy will be addressed:

- Asking for Help
- Self-Advocacy at Work
- Developing a Leadership Role in Planning Meetings
- Peer Relationships
- Knowing Rights
- Self-Esteem and Building Self-Confidence
- Taking Chances
- Learning about One's Disability and Explaining It to Others
- Knowing about and Asking for Accommodations
- Leadership

The PathWays team has arranged an informational meeting about the program at your high school.

Please RSVP and mark your calendars to come and see what this new project could mean to the young adult in your life!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RSVP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Liaison Contact:

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