
Proposal Abstract

disABILITY LINK provides advocacy, peer support, information and referral, and independent living skills training, nursing facilities transition services and Americans For Disability Act (ADA) services to disabled individuals in the greater Atlanta, Georgia, area. Partners Against Domestic Violence (PADV) provides a crisis line, emergency shelters, parenting groups, children and youth programs, and other community based services to help victims of domestic abuse and educate people on the nature of domestic abuse in order to prevent abuse in the future. There are one and a half million people with disabilities in the greater Atlanta area. Within this population, disABILITY LINK realizes that women with disabilities do not have access to information, training or support services for abuse while 85 percent of disabled women are abused. PADV provides the education and support services to victims of abuse and realizes that their services don't reach the disabled population.

The increasing awareness of the lack of availability of services and education to the disabled population on this issue has created a collaborative relationship between disABILITY LINK and PADV. Both agencies realize that since each agency specializes in one aspect of this issue, it is necessary for these two groups to join forces to create an accessible, comprehensive program to provide training, consultation and information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking against individuals with disabilities. By combining expertise, these two agencies can:

- Conduct outreach activities to ensure that disabled individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking receive appropriate assistance.
- Conduct cross-training for victim service organizations, governmental agencies and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving individuals with disabilities about:
 - Risk reduction
 - Intervention
 - Prevention
 - The nature of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking for disabled individuals.

Because these two agencies realize the large scope of this issue, they will initially forge a partnership with each other and then develop relationships with the following related agencies to create a multi-disciplinary collaborative team comprised of state and local agencies including, but not limited to:

- Georgia Consumer Mental Health Consumer Network
- Atlanta Legal Aid
- Taskforce for the homeless
- Men Stopping Violence
- Atlanta Police Department—Domestic Violence department.