

**ACT**  
**CENTER for**  
**DISABILITY**  
**LEADERSHIP**

**on intellectual  
and developmental  
disabilities**

As Minnesota's only stand-alone self-advocacy organization, ACT Center creates leaders through proven methods that lead to self-determination and community inclusion. We create and deliver curriculum, workshops, services and other resources designed to help people build personal power, connect with disability rights and build stronger and more inclusive communities.

The Self-Advocacy Academy and other projects of the ACT Center for Disability Leadership are sponsored, in part, by contracts with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. This sponsorship does not imply endorsement of products or services developed under these contracts.

## Question and Answers

### What are the requirements to participate in the Self-Advocacy Academy?

A person must be age 18 or older. The person must have a funding stream such as the Waiver Program, SILS, CDCS or other resources that will pay for the participation cost. The person must have a developmental, intellectual or mental health disability. The person must be very interested in learning about their rights, how to exercise them and becoming more active in their local communities. They must make a commitment to attend all sessions (scheduled weekly) and complete assignments between meetings.

### Can support staff from a day, employment, SILS or residential service attend and support a person to participate in the Academy?

Yes. The funding stream for the Self-Advocacy Academy does not include individual support services that a person may need to participate and be successful. Support staff may attend to provide assistance to the person they serve. Since ACT will be leading and facilitating the curriculum, there are two separate services being provided. ACT and the other service provider can both bill for their respective services. The services are considered non-duplicative.

Two examples are as follows:

- 1) Transportation can be authorized to get to the Self-Advocacy Academy and ACT can deliver the self-advocacy training while both parties would bill Medicaid for their services;
- 2) Individual supports can be authorized while ACT delivers the self-advocacy training and both parties would bill Medicaid for their services.

There are various other examples, based on an individual's service plan.

The person's Case Manager is responsible for approving the units for the Self-Advocacy Academy and the other support services being received. The Case Manager confirms they are not duplicative

**Can a person who receives Semi-Independent Living Services (SILS) or Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) participate in the Self-Advocacy Academy?**

Yes, the Self-Advocacy Academy is not limited to enrolling persons are funded only by the Home and Community Based Waiver program. Those who receive SILS or CDCS may enroll. The covered supports under SILS are quite broad, and Self-Advocacy Academy could be covered under the CBMS page that reads, “Engage in activities that make it possible for an adult with developmental disabilities or related condition(s) to live in the community.” There is no per person funding limit that would prevent a lead agency from adding funding self-advocacy training and support to their plan. The quarterly re-allocation process for SILS will make it possible for lead agencies to get additional SILS funding if they have used their allocation.

For CDCS participants, the service must be identified as needed and be included in the individual plan developed in collaboration with the Case Manager.

**Contact us at [info@selfadvocacy.org](mailto:info@selfadvocacy.org) or call (651) 641-0297; see more at [selfadvocacy.org](http://selfadvocacy.org)**

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