

FY 19 DDPC Advocate Rights and Responsibilities Town Halls Input

Responses from the panel and audience members (600 people state-wide including duplicate participants/panelists; majority self-advocates and family members)

1. What rights are important to you?

- Freedom of speech
- Being able to choose
- Right to work
- Accommodations, coaching
- Transformation
- Choose who I love
- Freedom of speech
- Right to vote privately
- “Achieve our dream and chase our dream until we knock them down”
- Right to be married
- Make our own decisions even if others don’t agree
- self-expression
- “RIGHTS: Responsibility, Integrity, Guidance, Honesty, Tolerance, Sensitivity” “We need to have all of these in order to have life and choose”
- To be independent
- Be respected
- Able to access the same buildings and infra-structures as everyone else
- Right to be believed
- Make our own decisions
- Go where I want to go
- Choose my occupation
- Have a family, be a parent
- Be treated equally
- Travel-outside of the country
- spend time with whoever I want
- A person told the story of getting a ride to the polls and walking in with her guide dog. She asked for an accessible booth to vote privately. The staffer asked her driver, not her, if he could help her vote. Outcome- no one knew how to use the accessible booth or if there was one and her driver had to do the actual voting for her.
- To be on my own
- Be my own payee
- have access to good jobs/ the right to work
- choose who I want to spend time with
- eat what I want to eat

- right to party
- help other people
- transportation
- any relationship I want/we're adults
- decide my own weight
- decide my own religion
- to landscape (own my own business)
- to live where I want, choose which neighborhood
- to have a job
- Self-respect, a good job
- Working, being out in the community
- Having life the way I want to
- To be heard
- Being able to practice Christianity
- Have to change our thinking. We all have disabilities of some sort; It's a matter of degrees. We are all people at heart.
- Good schooling
- Write my own story, publish and make my own business
- A teacher in the audience told a story of a student with disabilities in her class but she found out he was amazing artist. She was astonished at what he could do.
- For the people at Day Hab not to tell me what to do. I can do it on my own.
- Right to pick what movie to go to
- I want to cook and make my own recipes; to do things on my own
- A panel member talked about attending their exit IEP and for the first-time hearing people use "special education" about them. Teachers/staff talked about personal things at the team meeting without their permission. "All this was going on around me without me knowing. I was disrespected by people I didn't even know"
- being independent
- having my own house
- having access to places
- having friends that I want
- living by myself in my own apt. for peace and quiet
- getting married to the person I love
- paying my own bills
- spending time with people I want to
- having a job that pays a living wage
- being able to vote
- being independent
- healthcare
- having my own house
- choosing where I live
- having choices

- choosing the food I eat
- choosing what TV program to watch
- voting
- right to relationships
- feel safe where I live
- having a stable climate

Roswell People First also did this activity at their last meeting to provide input: help people, have my own money, make choices, transportation, relationships, decide own weight and religion

2. What supports do you need to exercise your rights?

- need to have accurate information
- help with budgeting
- help keeping my apt. clean
- I do my own cooking
- need help to get my own guardianship
- parents/family
- job coach
- need help with my computer
- I ask a friend for help
- I call my friends
- I got a new computer and mouse and iPad
- staff help me
- a trainer at the gym
- I hire my own support person
- need help with my food allergies
- I need technology
- staff help me have my own house
- A support system/people who will support the choices you make
- People to not tell me what to do; able to make choices
- Not much
- “Dream for what you want”
- My Christian faith
- People to help me have a voice to be heard
- Opportunities to make choices and do activities
- I need technical devices and accommodations.
- Courtesy from everyone
- Family member – “Where do I go to learn the skills to help my brother and sister-in-law who have disabilities? I feel like I’m helping them to survive but not to grow. I feel like I am crippling them and enabling them, but I don’t know how to teach them. They are not trash. That’s how I feel like they used to be treated before they moved in with me. I feel like I’m the one who needs help to know how to help them. I feel lost”
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- “The biggest problem is not having information. I have gotten the run-around so many times, especially from the Social Security office”.
- I see myself as independent- I usually like less support
- I need seasonal (summer) staff support- not all the time
- just transportation for medical and non-medical
- just a little help when I need to live on my own
- supports should be individualized (not site specific)
- Support of family and friends, encouragement
- support to help me get a job
- I don’t need the DD Waiver but help to get to places on my own
- I need friends to hang out with
- take the bus
- I need people to believe I am competent
- The support of people I trust that I can talk to, help me make good decisions
- Need technology-phone, computer, Google so I can get the information I need to weigh the pros and cons
- Show you can be responsible. How to assist people move beyond what is familiar to try new things
- Right to make risky decisions, have experiences to make better choices in the future
- First need to know you have rights and what your rights are
- Belief in second chances
- Have the opportunity to make mistakes so we can grow and learn
- Willingness to make something difficult work
- Roswell People First also did this activity at their last meeting to provide input: Staff, don’t rush us, friends to help, God, People First, other places in the community, family

Why is work important for everyone?

- to spend money the way I want
- educate others
- make money
- be part of the community
- work like anyone else
- help the next generation
- pay the bills
- do something meaningful
- contribute to taxes
- gives me a chance to explore options
- provides money to buy food and the things I want
- get help to start my own business
- get out there to be seen and welcomed into the community
- jobs help the community learn about us (People First)
- barrier-being rejected because of a disability

- opportunity to help people in the community to speak up
- get paid
- make friends
- getting paid allows me to make my own choices
- meeting good people
- feel like I am accomplishing something
- makes me more independent
- Make money
- Make good friends
- Try to identify unmet need of a business and create your own job
- I don't like to take "no" for an answer
- Don't want to be treated differently
- People with disabilities have crucial skills and strengths
- Help the next generation
- Makes me feel I have a purpose/mission
- Important to work towards a common goal with a group, not just by myself
- Take on new responsibilities
- Need to think outside the box, there are many ways to be productive
- There is lots of technology that can help
- It's difficult to get the support I need because I have a hidden disability
- 70% of people who are blind are unemployed
- Don't let the fear of losing benefits prevent you from working
- "There's always a way!"
- to make money
- to make money to pay my bills
- I enjoy it
- I use technology
- it gets me out of the house
- gives me an opportunity to contribute to the community
- pays my bills- food, water, milk...
- Work is a way to earn money and learn new skills for your life
- Good for self-esteem, good skill building, getting more confident.
- Worked in a McDonalds 10 years ago where I was bullied, and it made me mad.
- Make money and show people how capable we are.
- To have a sense of accomplishment and feel like you are contributing to the community; "just like everyone else who wants to work"
- Builds confidence
- Help my community, be an advocate
- Speak up for myself, advocate for myself and others
- Vote!
- Speak up if I see something is not right
- Ride the public bus

- Since I have a guide dog, I am responsible to give good directions, so she knows what I want
- Pay my bills
- Show up to work
- Make my own schedule
- Pay my phone bill
- Clean my apt.
- Have my own life
- Take care of my bird
- Treat others with respect and dignity
- Take care of my family
- Parental responsibilities-act the way I want to teach my son to act; model the right behavior
- Ask questions if something doesn't make sense to me
- Educate the public
- Not resort to violence in dealing with others who have a different opinion
- Be accountable for my actions
- Do the right thing
- Have tough conversations even though it's hard work

Barriers to work:

- transportation, transportation, transportation
- lack of supported employment providers
- lack of communication between agencies
- an audience member said she can't talk so people won't hire her even though she uses a tablet
- A person who lives on the reservation said it's too far for the provider to go

What are your responsibilities?

- being there for my family
- keeping up with my bills, food (I own my own house)
- take care of my animals
- sometimes making choices I don't always like because it's hard being on your own. It's also fun
- being an example
- being responsible at work so I can keep my job
- being a good person
- be the best person I can be
- be honest
- speak up for myself and others
- tell the truth in a kind way
- help others speak up for themselves
- I have many responsibilities- pay bills, buy groceries
- be respectful to everyone

- take care of my health/take my meds

- be the best employee I can be
- be accountable
- My responsibility is to educate people
- I have been given by God the responsibility to educate people.
- Educate people in my community about their rights
- Educate my community
- Need people to get up and fight for their rights
- Getting to work on time
- Work, volunteer and welcome people.
- Put one foot forward and don't give up
- Bring people to Jesus Christ
- As a caregiver, stand up for people. Teach people to advocate
- A panelist shared about his wife and 2 children and the responsibilities involved with taking care of his family.
- Parenting requires a lot of different skills.
- Finding a job for someone with a disability in Alamogordo is very difficult.
- take care of my dog
- get up, get ready for work on time, do a good job
- be on time for my ride
- take care of myself
- take care of my apartment
- go to work on time
- take care of my friends
- take care of my son, spend time with him, what does my wife need
- take care of myself so I can be there for my sister
- give back to the community
- clean my apt.
- show up to work on time
- stay within my budget
- keep good records
- take care of my family
- take care of myself/self-care
- take care of my mental health
- responsible for myself
- keep track of my appointments and medical info.
- treat people well
- speak up for myself
- speak up for my friends
- Roswell People First also did this activity at their last meeting to provide input: own my mistakes, respect self/others, take care of others, don't break the law, talk to others, do things for myself, take care of myself, help around the house/clean up, how love/kindness, support others.