



Online LEAD Program Regional Pilot for Fire/EMS

Loyola University of Maryland

Location: Howard & Montgomery Counties **Funding:** \$26,933 | \$14,957 match

GOAL

Improve how Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff interact with people with developmental disabilities. This includes fire fighters, emergency medical professionals, and others that respond to emergencies.

SUMMARY

The LEAD program was developed to train police officers and others who respond to emergencies. The training helps them understand the best ways to behave and communicate with people who have developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities are trainers in the program. They are called Self-Advocate Educators.

This project will expand the LEAD program to make it an online training. The focus will be on Fire and EMS staff in Howard and Montgomery counties. This is a new way of providing the LEAD training. The project will try new things to learn what works. The lessons learned will help expand the training to more people that respond to fires and emergencies in Maryland.

ACTIVITIES

- Make the LEAD program an online training.
- Find and train 6 people with developmental disabilities to be Self-Advocate Educators.
- Provide at least 5 online LEAD program trainings to Fire and EMS staff. They will be from Montgomery and Howard counties.
- Create a 3-hour LEAD program online training. This will be added to the other Fire and EMS trainings in Howard and Montgomery counties.

- Evaluate the training program to see if it is effective. Use the information to expand the training statewide.

OUTCOMES

- Fire and EMS staff understand how to behave and communicate with people with developmental disabilities. As a result, people with developmental disabilities are treated fairly and respectfully.
- More people with developmental disabilities are involved in activities that make life better for themselves and others.