

TEXAS SIBLING SURVEY

ADVOCACY

108 ADULT SIBLINGS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES RESPONDED TO THE TEXAS SIBLING SURVEY

EXPERIENCE WITH ADVOCACY

Sibling survey respondents indicated they had limited experience with some advocacy areas:

85%

had **not visited legislators** about disability services.



75%

had **not taken on leadership roles** in national, state, or local disability services.



74%

had **not written letters** to legislators.



Siblings of people with disabilities are an untapped constituency for advocacy.



The more siblings that get involved the more possibility for change.

There is power in numbers!



LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

There are multiple levels of advocacy. Many siblings have experience advocating for their brothers and sisters with disabilities at an individual and family level. Siblings can also become more engaged in advocacy at the community and policy/legislative level.



SIBLING LEADERSHIP NETWORK

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TEXAS COUNCIL for DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WAYS FOR SIBLINGS TO GET INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY



Individual/ Family Advocacy:

- Listen to what is important to your siblings with disabilities and your family as well as yourself and think about how you could impact issues that matter. Learn from disability advocates about how to advocate in specific areas so you don't have to start from square one.
- Share your own sibling story to increase awareness about the experience and needs of siblings of people with disabilities.
- Support your sibling with disabilities to express his/her voice and speak up. For example, help your sib get involved in a self-advocacy group, such as Texas Advocates: <http://www.texadvocates.org/about-us-2/>



Community Advocacy:

- Serve on a Board or Committee of a group where you could bring your perspective on disability and being a sibling to help impact change.
- Join an advocacy group to keep up on the latest issues.
- Connect with other siblings and families of people with disabilities to advocate together.
 - Become part of the Texas Sibling Network (TNS). TSN provides support, resources, leadership and advocacy skill building opportunities for siblings. TSN is a community *for* siblings of people with disabilities *by* siblings of people with disabilities.

 Website: <https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/TSN>

 Facebook: [Texas Sibling Network](#)

 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TexasSibling>

 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/texassiblingnetwork/>



Policy/Legislative Advocacy:

- Connect with your legislators to share information about issues that are important to you and your family. Visit in person and send emails. The Sibling Advocacy Toolkit provide resources on how to contact legislators <https://siblingleadership.org/policy-advocacy/sln-advocacy-toolkit/>
- Write letters to the editor on topics that impact your family to share your perspective with others.
- Vote! Cast your vote for candidates that align with your values and vision.