



SSEAP ADVOCATE TRAINING FELLOWSHIP

The Somerville Special Education Advocacy Project (SSEAP) is inviting Somerville parents to apply for an innovative Advocate Training Fellowship program to strengthen the capacity and expertise of parents of children with disabilities in the city.

The SSEAP Special Education Fellowship consists of approximately a 6-month part-time (450-hour unpaid) special education advocacy training under the supervision of a MAC staff attorney. MAC will train one Fellow per Fellowship period.

- The SSEAP Special Education Fellowship will include:
 - Participation, with a scholarship provided by SSEAP, in the Parent Consultant Training Institute conducted by the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN). The advocacy training session will be held in the fall of 2015. (<http://fcsn.org/pti/advocacy/becomeanadvocate.php>).
 - Intensive training, beginning in February 2016, at MAC for six-months under the supervision of a MAC attorney, where the Fellow will participate in a range of activities, including working on the MAC Helpline (doing intakes and providing advice to callers), attending Team meetings with a MAC attorney, writing, and handling cases with close supervision.
- SSEAP staff will select the SSEAP Advocate Fellow from the applications submitted, and preference will be given to a parent who has a child with a disability, is bilingual, possesses strong commitment, and/or has some knowledge of special education prior to training.
- SSEAP Fellows must be or become a member of the Somerville PAC. (See Somerville By-Laws Article III: Terms of Membership:
<http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/education/page/download.php?fileinfo=U29tZXJ2aWxsZSBTUEVEIFBBQyBCeWxhd3M6Ojovd3d3L3NjaG9vbHMvc2MvcmVtb3RIL2ltYWdlcy9hdHRhY2gvMTMyNDcvMTMxNzNfMTMyNDdfYXR0YWN0XzMzMzMC5wZGY=.> .)
- The SSEAP Advocate Training Fellowship will begin in June, after completion of the advocacy training at the Federation for Children with Special Needs advocacy. Upon completion of the six-month Fellowship, Fellows will receive a Massachusetts Advocates for Children Advocate Fellow Training Certificate of Completion.
- For questions and/or to send information contact Johanne Pino, Mass Advocates for Children 617-357-8431x234 or email jpino@massadvocates.org
- Please send the application to Johanne Pino by **August 18, 2015**.



THE SOMERVILLE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY PROJECT (SSEAP)
ADVOCATE TRAINING FELLOWSHIP
APPLICATION FORM

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____

Phone Number _____
(Primary) (Secondary)

E-Mail _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional) _____

How did you learn about the SSEAP Advocate Training Fellowship?

List other language in which you are proficient

Please Include:

Resume or description of relevant experience (including relevant parenting experience)

Personal Statement

Please discuss the following topic on a separate piece of paper using approximately 300 words or less:

Explain how your personal background and experience have influenced your view of special education in Massachusetts. Include your special education experience, any advocacy experience, values, principles, and personal factors that led to your interest in applying for the SSEAP Advocate Training Fellowship.

Short Answers

Please respond to the following two questions on a separate piece of paper using approximately 200 words or less per response:

1. How will serving as a SSEAP Advocate Training Fellow help you achieve your long-term goals?
2. Provide an example of how you might support the Somerville PAC and help to improve opportunities for children in Somerville after you become a trained advocate.