



Wisconsin's Self Determination YouTube Channel *“By self-advocates, for self-advocates”*

Background

Wisconsin's Self-Determination YouTube Channel was started in the fall of 2019 by self-advocate members of the [Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#) (Wi-BPDD) to provide information and education to other self-advocates on living self-determined lives. The channel is dedicated to sharing the voices of people with disabilities. It provides a platform for self-advocates to share their experiences, stories, tips, and advice on using choice and control in their own lives. It also provides a forum to celebrate people with disabilities as well as to educate the public on what it means to have an intellectual and/or developmental disability. Self-advocates host the YouTube channel and decide on its content.

How it Works

The idea of a YouTube channel was born after the Wi-BPDD's 2019 annual Self-Determination conference. The conference videographer wanted to create a forum where self-advocates could continue sharing their experiences and stories throughout the year, as opposed to only during the annual conference. Self-advocates formed a subcommittee to further define the idea and the goals of the YouTube channel.

The subcommittee created the YouTube channel to promote self-determination, amplify the voices of self-advocates, and educate the public. The subcommittee received training on technical skills, such as videography, and other skills, like working together as a group. They decided that they would pick topics related to what is happening in the world, the country, and in their communities. They selected the first four hosts and developed an introductory video highlighting their goals. Since developing the introductory video, they have added three additional hosts.

The subcommittee meets monthly to decide on what topics to cover, how to frame the stories, who will host, and who else will be involved. The channel presents stories in different formats, including interviews such as those that were conducted with three youth ambassadors from the [National Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice](#). In these interviews, the youth ambassadors shared their supported decision-making journeys and why it was important to them to make their own decisions with support from their teams.

How it has Helped: The Power Of Using your Story

Subcommittee members jointly define and agree on the content they want to share, always trying to think of a person who has a lived experience who can help. They work together to come up with questions and have a skilled videographer to add input and film the episode. Several organizations working with youth have used the videos from the self-determination channel for training. Teachers have also shared the videos in their classrooms to teach their students about voice, choice, and autonomy.

Things to Consider if you want to Develop your own YouTube Channel:

- » **Hire a skilled videographer on the team.** Wisconsin's team benefits from a videographer with technical skills, a teachable spirit, patience, flexibility, and an interest in learning more about disability.
- » **Establish a strong team of committed self-advocate hosts.** The team approach works better than having a single person hosting the shows as it brings diversity of thought, voice, and background.
- » **When establishing a team, look for people who work well together,** who respect each

other, and who make it comfortable for everyone to be their authentic selves.

» **Focus on the power of personal storytelling.**

Self-advocates in charge of Wisconsin's YouTube channel created powerful stories of self-determination by selecting relevant topics experienced by real people who wanted to share their stories.

Check out the [Self-Determination Channel](#) on YouTube and subscribe to support youth voice!

For more information, contact Fil Clissa at the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities by email at fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov.

For more information on how to train youth with IDD on content related to self-advocacy, self-determination, supported decision-making, alternatives to guardianship, and leadership, see the [Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice's Youth Ambassador Curriculum](#). The goal of this curriculum is to train youth leaders to create systems change in their states!

Other resources from the Center for Youth Voice Youth Choice

Learn more about [our work with State Teams](#)

See who is part of our [National Coalition](#)

[Read the stories of youth](#) who chose supported decision-making

[Use our interactive map](#) to understand your state's laws as they relate to alternatives to guardianship.



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