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## Some Steps That Can Be Used to Have Successful Self-Advocacy Groups

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- Make sure everyone understand why a group of people would want to meet. The group should ask, "Is there a need for a self-advocacy group? Why would people with disabilities want to get involved?"
- Find out how other similar groups got organized and how they operate - learn from others' experience.
- Arrange for the details of organization. That is, when and where to meet, publicizing the group to attract broader interest, transportation, refreshments, introductory presentations, films, video-tapes, speakers from similar groups, etc.
- Decide on how the group members will work together (rules, officers, agendas, voting, etc.)
- Develop a working friendship between the members and develop "team spirit."
- Develop ways (strategies /tactics/methods) to reach goals.
- Develop connections/links and "allies" between the group and the community to increase the presence and participation of the group and group members in community life and decision making.
- Work on ways to decide how well the group is doing, and how to make changes to help the group move forward.
- Develop a process to decide how the group will change and expand over time (coalitions, state organization, etc.).