

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ACADEMIC OFFICE - ADULT EDUCATION**

**DISABILITY FOCUS GROUP
Mission Statement**

The Disability Focus Group's [DFG] mission is to encourage and support the efforts of adult education and literacy personnel to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities to education and training facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities.

The DFG, sponsored by the State of Connecticut Department of Education through the Adult Training and Development Network [ATDN], is a standing inter-agency inter-disciplinary advisory committee to the Academic Office. It was established to provide guidance and make recommendations to the Academic Office to promote disability access and awareness in adult education programs in Connecticut.

In conjunction with the Academic Office and with the support of ATDN, the Disability Focus Group promotes interagency, and interdisciplinary collaboration within and between state agencies, educational institutions, public service providers, and employers. This process occurs through collaboration, networking, and promotion of educational opportunities among professionals to develop an awareness of and ability to address the academic, instructional, and employment needs of adults with disabilities.

The objectives of the Focus Group are to:

- Promote communication, cooperation, and coordination among professionals on issues relating to adults with disabilities;
- Promote awareness regarding the laws that protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act);
- Promote awareness of the educational, instructional, and employment needs of adults with disabilities;
- Support professional development opportunities with regard to educating and training adults with disabilities; and
- Promote and support the development of policies, procedures, and services that increase access and opportunity in education and employment for adults with disabilities.