

What is KASA?

KASA is a national grassroots network of youth with disabilities and our friends. We are leaders in our communities, and we help spread helpful, positive information among our peers to increase knowledge around various issues related to transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Those issues include: living with disabilities, disability rights and culture, health care, school, work and many more.

We also help health care professionals, policymakers and other adults in our communities understand issues that affect youth with disabilities. We participate in conversations about how to help each other succeed.

KASA is led by a National Youth Advisory Board made up of youth between the ages of 13-24. Other ways to be involved with KASA include the KASA information, training and resource Task Force or becoming a KASA member.

We are working toward a day when young people with disabilities will have control their own lives and futures. We do this through:

- informing youth about their rights
- providing peer support and training
- changing systems to include us

Become a Member of KASA



We want you to join!

Anyone who wants to learn more about youth disability issues can join KASA, and it's FREE to join.

Vision

KASA empowers youth to learn how to advocate for themselves and others through better knowledge of health care, school, work, technology, and other current issues related to youth.

Youth with disabilities will understand their rights as members of our society and will determine the supports that we need to be independent within communities that are accepting of us as individuals.

Mission

Kids As Self Advocates (KASA) is created by youth with disabilities for youth to educate society about issues concerning youth with a wide spectrum of disabilities and health care needs. KASA believes in self-determination, creating support networks and proactive advocacy for all youth with disabilities in our society.

Values

KASA upholds the following values:

- we educate others about our issues
- we provide and expect equal opportunities
- we focus on disability
- we promote independence
- we give and expect respect
- we believe in self-advocacy for youth and young adults with disabilities
- we believe in self-determination
- we believe youth organizations, projects and activities should be youth-run

Current Projects

- Develop information sheets and “how to” sheets about important issues—for youth, by youth
- Collect youth resources on the web
- Advise projects as experts on youth issues
- Speak at national conferences
- Participate in web forums
- Serve on national and local boards and committees
- Participate in strategic planning and learn new skills
- Translate materials into youth friendly language and format

Resources

KASA offers information and resources on the following topics:

- Civil Rights
- Disability Culture and History
- Dating and Relationships
- School
- Health Care
- KASA Café – art and poetry
- Current Events – the latest in what’s going on in policy and the news
- Prevention and Recovery
- Recreation, Leisure and Sports
- Staying Safe
- Technology
- Transportation
- Work

Website

You can visit, access our resources, participate in forums and sign up for membership on our website:

www.fvkasa.org

If you are a youth or young adult who has a disability, we want to hear from you!

Become a KASA member today and become part of a national community of young people with disabilities!

Youth Voices

“They say ‘God Bless America’ to make us feel free, but really we are not free because the walls of the hospitals, institutions, and nursing homes keep us locked in the name of care.”

-Kyle, at age 14

“I know where I want to go and want to use my own mind to make those decisions. I am no fool, I just need a little help to get me where I would like to be.”

Tyler, at age 16



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*KASA is a project of Family Voices.
Learn more about Family Voices at
www.familyvoices.org.*