



2016 Barbara Wilensky Gopen Memorial Fellowship **Now Accepting Applications**

The Gopen Fellowship is a one year, part-time work and learning opportunity for an individual with a developmental disability. It allows an individual to work on a self-designed project and learn about disability policy, services and advocacy. Massachusetts residents with developmental disabilities who have finished school are eligible to apply. The Gopen Fellow works primarily at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) in Dorchester, and occasionally at the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) in Quincy.

The Gopen Fellow will:

- Work 20 hours per week for a period of 12 months. Most of this time will be spent designing and working on an original project.
- Complete an original disability project of the Fellow's choice. This will include developing a final product: for example a brochure, a presentation or content for a webpage.
- Set up and attend meetings to gather information about the chosen project.
- Attend Friday morning LEND Fellowship classes in Boston (no summer session).
- Attend conferences, trainings, meetings and other events to learn about disability services, public policy, advocacy, government and the chosen area of interest.
- Share information about project activities with Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network partners and other disability organizations.
- Develop a project work plan and submit quarterly status reports.
- Make a presentation about the project at the end of the Fellowship.

The Fellowship will begin on July 5, 2016 and end on June 30, 2017. The annual stipend is \$20,000, paid bi-weekly.

Applications are due on or before **Thursday, April 28, 2016**. Finalists will be interviewed in late May. To apply for the Fellowship, submit a written proposal, a resume, and 3 letters of reference. Refer to the attached instructions for more information about applying for the Fellowship.

Questions? Contact Liz Fancher, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council by email at Liz.fancher@state.ma.us or phone at 617.770.7676 x105.

The Gopen Fellowship was established in 2001 to honor disability advocate Barbara Wilensky Gopen and is sponsored by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network Programs:

- *Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (ICI)*
- *Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC)*
- *EK Shriver Center, UMass Medical Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities*
- *Disability Law Center (DLC)*

Application Instructions – 2016 Gopen Fellowship

The application consists of 3 parts. Applicants can seek support to complete their application. The content of the proposal should be in the applicant's own words.

1. A 2-5 page written proposal:

- A. Describe your background, including your personal disability experience. Why do you want to be the Gopen Fellow?
- B. Provide a summary of the proposed disability project you want to work on. The project should be an original idea and achievable within the one year time frame.
 - a. Describe your project. What makes it unique? Why is it needed?
 - b. Why did you choose this particular project?
 - c. What is the goal of the one year project?
 - d. What are the major activities you will do to accomplish the goal?
 - e. Describe the final product. How will it be distributed? How will it benefit other people?
- C. What do you see yourself doing in the future, after the Fellowship is complete?

2. Resume.

3. Three Letters of Reference.

Send your application by mail or email to:

Liz Fancher

Email: liz.fancher@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

100 Hancock St., Suite 201

Quincy, MA 02171

Phone: 617.770.7676 x105 (Monday-Thursday)

Deadline to Apply: Thursday April 28, 2016