



## 2019-20 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 an intellectual and/or 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 are no longer in high school or a transition program are eligible to apply. The Gopen Fellow works primarily at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at UMass Boston in Dorchester, and occasionally at the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC).

The Gopen Fellow will:

- Work up to 20 hours per week for a period of 12 months.
- Design and work on an original disability project created by the Fellow.
- Develop a final product: for example a brochure, presentation or webpage.
- Schedule and attend meetings to gather information about the chosen project.
- Attend Friday morning LEND Fellowship classes in Boston (September-May)
- Attend conferences, workshops 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 complete quarterly status reports.
- Make one or more presentations about the project at the end of the Fellowship.

The Fellowship will begin in July, 2019 and end on June 30, 2020. Annual compensation is up to \$20,000, paid bi-weekly.

Applications are due on or before **Tuesday, April 23, 2019**. Finalist interviews will take place in mid-May. To apply for the Fellowship, submit a written application, resume, and 3 letters of reference.

Applicants will be judged primarily on their potential to benefit from the Fellowship experience, and on their project's originality and methodology, their ability to implement the proposed project, and the expected project impact after it is completed.

Questions? Interest in applying? Contact Liz Fancher, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council by email at [Liz.fancher@state.ma.us](mailto:Liz.fancher@state.ma.us) or phone at 617.770.7676 x105.

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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)***
- ***E.K. Shriver Center, UMass Medical Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities***
- ***Disability Law Center (DLC)***

## **Application Instructions – 2019-20 Gopen Fellowship**

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

### **1. A 2-4 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. This will be an original project that you can achieve in one year (20 hours per week) which will benefit people with disabilities after the Fellowship is complete.
  - a. Describe your project. What makes it unique? Why is it needed?
  - b. Why did you choose this particular project?
  - c. What is the specific goal of the one year project?
    - What are the major activities you will do to accomplish the goal?
    - What is the expected project impact?
  - d. Describe the final product you will develop. How will it be publicized or distributed? How will it benefit other people?
- C. What do you see yourself doing in the future, after the Fellowship is complete?
- D. What kind of training or support, if any, will you need during the Fellowship?

### **2. Resume.**

### **3. Three Letters of Reference.**

#### **Send your application by email or mail to:**

Liz Fancher

Email: [liz.fancher@state.ma.us](mailto: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: Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

## **Past Gopen Fellowship Projects**

- Curriculum for Self-Advocacy Leadership Training
- Audio disability information for Haitian families
- Positive Behavior Supports workshops for teachers & parents
- Accessible Transportation Guide to Southeast Massachusetts
- Legislative advocacy workshop for self-advocates
- Integrated sports and recreation opportunities
- Accessible Community Technology Centers guide
- Social skills awareness curriculum for elementary school children
- Sibling support
- Accessible cultural excursions in Boston
- Reasonable accommodations in Housing and Employment
- Emergency Health Care forms for people with disabilities
- Healthcare for Autistic Women
- Inclusive Playgrounds
- Autism Mentoring Project
- Entrepreneurial Cookie Business
- Peer support for self-advocates and special education parent training using a civil rights framework
- Law Enforcement Training