



Who We Are

- SAM is a network of self-advocates, advisor, allies, friends, family, and professionals—led by self-advocates.
- Not a new non-profit. SAM uses existing leaders and organizations to support the network.
- Administrative supports offered by ACT and other interested self-advocacy organizations.
- Administrative Advisory Cabinet consists of leader disability organizations (i.e. The Arc, Institute on Community Integration, etc).
- Grassroots-up: Not Top-Down.
- Based on spirit of cooperation—not competition.

SAM Leader Team

- The direction of SAM is set by a Leader Circle consisting of:
 - Two Self-Advocates (people with developmental disabilities) from each region
 - One advisor from each region
 - SAM Regional Liaisons from each region
 - SAM state network staff

The Leader Circle representatives bring needs and issues from each region and work to create a statewide agenda.



Self-Advocates Minnesota

Together We Are Stronger:

Building a Statewide Network to help people with developmental disabilities know their rights and demand those rights through personal and group action.

Mission:

- SAM promotes the human and civil rights of people with developmental disabilities.
- SAM helps and supports people with all disabilities to be active participants in the larger disability and human rights movements.



Values:

- Based on 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

A State Network:

- SAM raises money and gets resources to self-advocacy groups across Minnesota
- SAM provides technical assistance to self-advocacy groups to help groups meet their goals
- SAM puts systems of communication in place to better communicate and learn from each other

Statewide Network only as Strong as Each Region

- The state of Minnesota is divided into six regions. Each region gets staff support, money and tools to do the work of self-advocacy. (via existing organization serving as host)
- Local groups stay connected with the State SAM network to work on issue of importance to self-advocate across Minnesota.
- Each group set its own direction. SAM supports groups as requested by local leaders.