



Faith communities are made up of people who generally share the same beliefs and religious ideals. These communities are often formed around a place of worship such as a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque. Some faith communities may have special needs ministries that are focused on serving people with disabilities by providing activities and programming. Places of worship tend to have diverse membership from the community and a mission to serve their members in a variety of ways. Faith communities can be pivotal in helping an individual with a disability achieve goals such as independence and employment by connecting them with members in their place of worship who might have useful connections and resources. Faith communities can also serve as a solid support system for both individuals with disabilities and their families.

What services or resources does this agency provide?

Each community or place of worship offers different supports to its members. Some may have programs designed specifically for people with disabilities, while others may be open to including members with disabilities in ongoing activities. They may also provide support services that can be applied to those with disabilities. Some examples of programming or supports may be: sports or recreation teams, small groups (bible studies,



etc.), Sunday school classes, support groups, meal delivery, transportation, etc.

For which students might this agency be appropriate?

Students who are already involved in some type of faith community, or express a desire to become involved can seek more information about local groups and supports.

Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

There are no eligibility requirements for participation in communities. There may be eligibility requirements for specific services, supports, or activities that are offered.

What is the student's and/or family's responsibility?

Research resources and talk to other faith



community members on ways to get the individual involved within the family's faith community.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

Educators can make recommendations to families to look into local programs if they are involved in a faith community.

How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- For students who already belong to a faith community, invite leadership from that congregation to participate in planning meetings to discuss ways to help the student increase involvement in the institution and/or share ways that community could support the student after graduation.
- For students who express a desire to become involved in a faith community, the educators can share information about local groups or institutions in the area.
- Educators can share information with the student and family about ways that a faith community may be able to support the student and/or help the student reach their postsecondary goals.

Where can I learn more?

Families can learn more by contacting their faith community and inquiring about offerings.

What questions should I ask of my faith community?

- Do you offer any programs or ministries for individuals with special needs?
- In what ways does your congregation make the service more accessible to individuals with disabilities?
- Are there individuals with disabilities or families that have a child with a disability in your congregation?