

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION PROGRAM
CONSENT FORM**

Project Title: Leadership Experiences of Disability Advocates and Self-Advocates

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by Dr. Dan Zhang and Dr. Leena Landmark, researchers from Texas A&M University, and funded by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. The information in this form is provided to help you decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign this consent form. If you decide you do not want to participate, there will be no penalty to you, and you will not lose any benefits you normally would have.

Why Is This Study Being Done?

The purpose of this study is to obtain data regarding disability advocates and self-advocates' legislative experiences in Texas.

Why Am I Being Asked To Be In This Study?

You are being asked to be in this study because you have either participated in the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference (TALAC) trainings or have participated in other disability advocacy organization trainings (e.g., Texas Parent to Parent, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities).

How Many People Will Be Asked To Be In This Study?

Three hundred fifty people (participants) will be invited to participate in this study.

What Are the Alternatives to being in this study?

The alternative to being in the study is not to participate.

What Will I Be Asked To Do In This Study?

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire about your leadership and advocacy experiences in Texas. We anticipate it will take you no more than 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Are There Any Risks To Me?

The things that you will be doing are no greater than risks than you would come across in everyday life. You may feel that some questions that are asked of you will be stressful or upsetting. You do not have to answer anything you do not want to.

Will There Be Any Costs To Me?

Aside from your time, there are no costs for taking part in the study.

Will I Be Paid To Be In This Study?

You will not be paid for being in this study.

Will Information From This Study Be Kept Private?

The records of this study will be kept private. No identifiers linking you to this study will be included in any sort of report that might be published. Information about you will be stored in locked file cabinet and computer files will be protected with a password. This consent form will be filed securely in an official area.

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People who have access to your information include the Principal Investigator and research study personnel (i.e., Dr. Zhang and Dr. Landmark). Representatives of regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) and entities such as the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program may access your records to make sure the study is being run correctly and that information is collected properly.

The agency that funds this study (Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities) may also see your information. However, any information that is sent to them will be coded with a number so that they cannot tell who you are. Representatives from these entities can see information that has your name on it if they come to the study site to view records. If there are any reports about this study, your name will not be in them.

Information about you and related to this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted or required by law.

Who may I Contact for More Information?

You may contact the Principal Investigator, Dan Zhang, PhD, to tell him about a concern or complaint about this research at (979) 862-6514 or dalun@tamu.edu.

For questions about your rights as a research participant; or if you have questions, complaints, or concerns about the research, you may call the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program office at (979) 458-4067 or irb@tamu.edu.

What if I Change My Mind About Participating?

This research is voluntary and you have the choice whether or not to be in this research study. You may decide to not begin or to stop participating at any time. If you choose not to be in this study or stop being in the study, there will be no effect on your relationship with Texas A&M University.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

By entering and completing the survey, I agree that my responses may be used for research purposes.