



CAIP Innovative Attitude Change Project Proposal - Advancing Access and Inclusion

Project Title: Universal Design Training
Submitted by: SCI BC
Sector Targeted for Attitude Change: <input type="checkbox"/> Employers, <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (preschool – Grade 12), <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community (geographic community or community of interest) Community
Specific Audience To Be Reached: Government employees, political leaders, city planners, educators
Specific Attitude To Be Established: A recognition that everyone’s needs change throughout the lifespan and appropriate planning ahead of time can ensure that everyone can participate fully.
Geographic Reach: All geographic areas
Project Description Summary: <p>Rather than focusing on disability simulations, showcasing people with disabilities who are doing well in their lives or how to add ramps on beside a set of stairs, this project will instead concentrate on educating decision makers about what universal design is and why it matters. By training people on how to think differently about designing programs, services and the built environment, barriers will be eliminated in the planning stages, rather than requiring expensive renovations or changes after implementation. The key focus will be on showing how good design includes everyone and benefits everyone at some point in their life. Project leads will be people with a variety of disabilities and people with significant experience in universal design. The federal government could provide grants for the training and infrastructure funding could come with the requirement that the recipient regional government staff has taken the training (or will take it as part of the infrastructure funding).</p>
Project Outcomes: People with disabilities have increased access to all areas of the built environment in their communities and all programs and services. People with disabilities have increased employment rates, opportunities for participation in recreation and sports events, and lower rates of poverty, homelessness, and mental health concerns. Communities learn the value of universal design for all community members and make universal design a focus for all future decision making.
Project Lead and Partners: SCI Canada/BC and partners such as RHF