

## 10 Tips for Recruiting Members with Disabilities

1. Introduce your program to the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) Counselors in your area and ask them to refer potential applicants. The goal of BVR is to place people with a wide range of disabilities in jobs that are well-suited to the person's strengths and interests.  
<http://www.rsc.state.oh.us/ES/default.aspx>
2. Contact your regional Center for Independent Living. Centers for Independent Living are connected with a large number of people with disabilities.  
[http://www.ohiosilc.org/2008/directory\\_cils.php](http://www.ohiosilc.org/2008/directory_cils.php)
3. Ask each member to contact a representative from a local disability organization to speak with them about your AmeriCorps program. Then follow up with a letter and recruitment material. (Example <http://www.biaoh.org/who.html> The Brain Injury Association of Ohio)
4. Ask to speak at a meeting of the Service and Support Administrators (formerly known as Service Coordinators or Case Managers) from your county board of Developmental Disabilities. They often have broad-based community contacts.  
<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/contacts/countyboards1.htm>
5. Speak with local high school Special Education teachers and Transition Coordinators. These individuals often stay in touch with former students and families.
6. Send mailings to local psychological/social service agencies in your community. (Example [http://www.oacbha.org/about\\_us/directory.html](http://www.oacbha.org/about_us/directory.html) Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities)
7. Introduce your program to discharge planning teams from local hospitals. These teams are often in touch with people (former patients) with disabilities and can pass along information about your program.
8. Speak to self advocacy and parent advocacy organizations about service opportunities in your program. (Example <http://www.gcpd.ohio.gov/index.asp> Governor's Council on People with Disabilities)
9. Advertise open positions at offices for disability services at local colleges and universities. (Example <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/> Office for Disability Services at OSU)
10. Post a blurb about your program and any open positions on departmental listservs that reach people with disabilities. For example, the Americans with Disabilities Act Office at The Ohio State University has a listserv that reaches people with and without disabilities, students and non-students. [dsosu@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu](mailto:dsosu@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu). People with disabilities and/or people with contacts in the disability field are often subscribed to other department listservs such as Disability Studies, Social Work, Education, Psychology, Special Education, etc.

*Establish collaborative relationships with disability organizations by requesting a meeting with key personnel in the organization, presenting at each others' staff meetings, and/or exchanging program materials. Use this interaction to spread the word about open service positions and gain feedback from disability specialists regarding the accessibility of your program materials.*