



**Adult Advocacy
Centers**

Frequently Asked Questions about Project FIND

What is Project FIND?

Project FIND stands for Forensic Interviewing for Individuals with Disabilities. It is a series of classes that train people to conduct forensic interviews with the specific needs of people with disabilities in mind. Project FIND offers a four-day certification training, a two-day training and a one-day training.

Who developed Project FIND?

Project FIND was developed by a coalition of stakeholders and a team of experts. The coalition includes:

- Advocacy & Protective Services Inc.
- Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere
- Disability Rights Ohio
- The Arc of Ohio
- The Child Advocacy Center of West Central Ohio
- The Ohio Association of County Boards
- The Ohio Attorney General
- The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
- The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center
- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- The Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
- The Ohio Victim Witness Association

The team of expert contributors includes:

- Scott Modell, Founder of Collaborative Safety and President of MCG Consulting Services;
- Mark Douglas Everson, Professor, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;
- Kathryn Homan, Full-Time Forensic Interviewer, New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center;
- Julie Kenniston, Program Manager, National Criminal Justice Training Program of Fox Valley Technical College;
- Janice LeBel, Director of System Transformation, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health;
- Chris Newlin, Executive Director, National Children's Advocacy Center;
- Lia N. Rohlehr, Board Certified Forensic Psychologist, Superior Court of the District of Columbia;
- Stacie Schrieffer LeBlanc, Executive Director and Director of Legal Advocacy, New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center of Children's Hospital;

- Dermot Whelan, Criminal Investigator, New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs;
- Staci Whitney, Forensic Interviewer, Bivona Child Advocacy Center and Director of Forensic Interviewing Training, Modell Consulting Group

What is a forensic interview?

A forensic interview is a single session, legally sound, fact-finding interview. A specially trained professional uses forensic interviewing skills to get detailed information about possible events that a person with a disability may have experienced or witnessed. In Project FIND, it is used when the police, nurses, doctors, social workers or other support staff think a person with a disability might have been a victim of crime or a witness to a crime. In having just a single interview, rather than a series of interviews, a victim or witness to a crime does not have to endure being retraumatized by telling their story again and again.

Who can take these trainings?

Each training is designed with different professionals in mind. The training you should take will depend on the kind of work you do and how closely you work with adults with disabilities who may be victims of crime, abuse or neglect. The description of each training includes the requirements participants must meet to take the course. Your eligibility will be verified in the application process.

What is the Project FIND Four-Day Training?

The Project FIND Four-Day Training is a certificate program designed for established forensic interviewers with previous basic training and extensive experience in forensic interviewing or working with individuals with disabilities. The certificate is founded in forensic interviewing best practices with considerations and adaptations to account for individual disability, mental health disorder, language capacity and cultural background. The curriculum is designed to support forensic interviewers to gather information from alleged victims in the most reliable and legally defensible manner. Participants learn through readings, didactic instruction, video examples, case scenarios and participating in activities throughout the training. All attendees complete a practicum that is scored on a pass/fail basis.

Read a full list of topics covered in the training at adultadvocacycenters.org/training/#four.

What are the prerequisites to take the Four-Day Training?

All individuals who participate in the certificate program must have:

- Completed basic forensic interviewing training (minimum of 32 hours) and
- Completed 100 interviews and/or a minimum 2 years' experience working with individuals with disabilities and/or an expert review/letter of recommendation.

Is there any cost to take the Four-Day Training?

Currently there is no cost to take the Four-Day Training, thanks to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. However, please note that travel and lodging is the responsibility of the individual participant or the agency sending the participant.

Where can I find upcoming dates for the Four-Day Training, and how do I apply?

More information about upcoming training sessions and the application form can be found on the Training page of our website: adultadvocacycenters.org/training/#four.

What is the Project FIND Two-Day Training?

The Project FIND Two-Day Training is designed for members of multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) who investigate and support victims of abuse and neglect. This includes law enforcement, child protective services, adult protective services, district attorneys, forensic interviewers, clinicians, and other social service personnel involved in these cases. The training is founded in forensic interviewing best practices with considerations and adaptations to account for individual disability, mental health disorder, language capacity and cultural background. The curriculum is designed to support MDT members to develop a broader understanding of many different kinds of disabilities. Additionally, participants are introduced to the FIND Model of Forensic Interviewing and have an opportunity to practice skills developed during the training.

Where can I find upcoming dates for the Two-Day Training, and how do I apply?

A Two-Day Training is being planned for Spring 2020. Please watch the Training page of our website for more information: adultadvocacycenters.org/training/#two.

What is the Project FIND One-Day Training?

The Project FIND One-Day Training is designed for individuals working on multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) and in other service organizations who would like to gain additional information about the risk factors, realities and strategies for working with people with disabilities. The training is founded in forensic interviewing best practices with considerations and adaptations to account for individual disability, mental health disorder, language capacity and cultural background. Similar to the Project FIND Two-Day Training, the one-day curriculum is designed to introduce MDT members and other service organization staff to practical applications for engaging and communicating with people with many different kinds of disabilities. Additionally, participants are introduced to the basics of the FIND Model of Forensic Interviewing.

Where can I find upcoming dates for the One-Day Training, and how do I apply?

One-Day Trainings are not yet scheduled. Please watch the Training page of our website for more information: adultadvocacycenters.org/training/#one.

What should I do if I have more questions?

For additional information, contact the Adult Advocacy Centers at contact@adultadvocacycenters.org.