SARTAC
Self Advocacy and Beyond

# 5 YEAR IMPACT REPORT

The project made the self advocacy movement stronger in diversity and leadership.

SELF ADVOCATES BECOMING EMPOWERED

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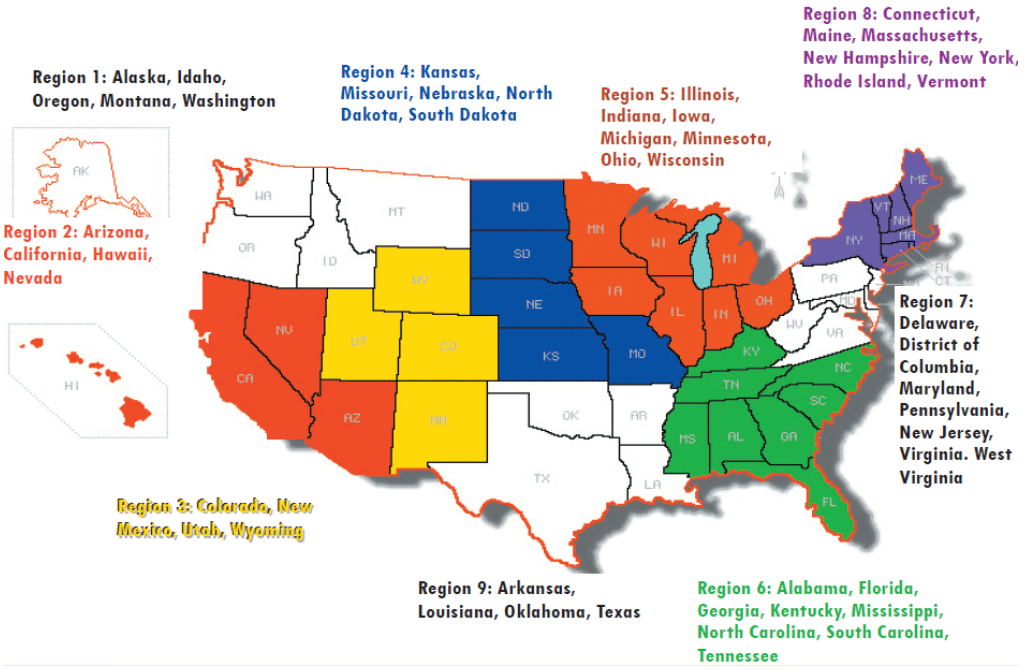
# Who we are

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, SABE, the oldest national self advocacy organization in the country. It was funded in 2016 to establish the first National Resource and Technical Assistance Center for Self Advocacy, SARTAC.

# Our mission

To strengthen the self advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow.



# Outcomes and objectives

## Outcome 1

**Increase number of self advocates with paid positions**

**Objective 1:** Create leadership fellowship experiences

**Objective 2:** Hire self advocate leaders to work on projects

## Outcome 2

**Increase access by Self advocacy organizations and allies to best practices through peer-to-peer technical assistance**

**Objective 1:** Collect and share tools, success stories and best practices in self advocacy created by self advocates

**Objective 2:** Develop a web-based resource center for tools, success stories and best practices

**Objective 3:** Provide Training and technical assistance to local, statewide and regional self advocacy organizations

**Objective 4:** Form advisory committee to identify policies and tools for self advocacy organizations

## Outcome 3

**Connect self advocacy movement to other civil and human rights movements**

**Objective 1:** Research history of other civil rights movement and learn the history of the self advocacy movement and what it has in common with with the African American and LGBTQ+ movements.

# Outcome 1

**Increase number of self advocates with paid positions**

## How we achieved our goal

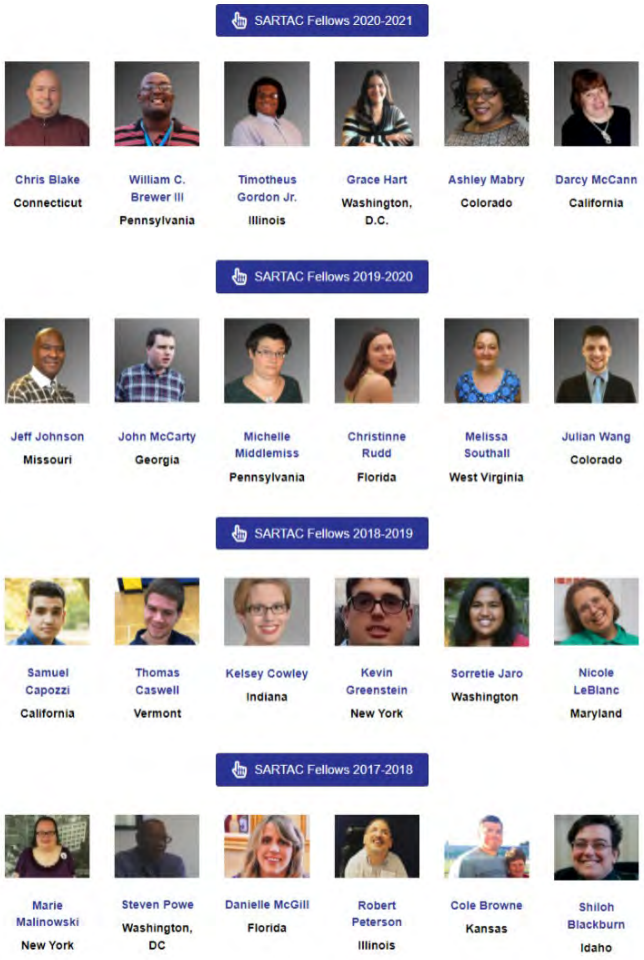
The fellows were paid for a year of work on projects that made the self advocacy movement stronger. The experience increased their employment skills.

The project also required all partners on the grant to employ staff to work on the project activities.

## Results

### Objective 1

- 23 Fellows completed projects
- 182 tools were created by Fellows for use by self advocacy organizations
- 10 Fellows employed at the end of the five-year project
- 9 self advocates were employed by Project Partners during the project period to include the Project Director.



# Outcome 1

**Quotes from Hosts**

"Our SARTAC Fellow, Stephen Powe, accomplished so much during his Fellowship year. Steven worked with the DC Department on Disability Services to create a Toolkit to enable people with I/DD to fully participate in Human Rights Committees, HRCs. He created 6 PowerPoint presentations – 1. Fundamental Rights and Responsibilities; 2. Rights – Voting; 3. Rights – Relationships; 4. Rights – The Right to Say NO; 5. Serving on Human Rights Committees and other Boards; and 6. Vision for myself to serve on a Human Rights Committee, HRC. He also created a "Trifold to Help People Plan for Serving on a HRC," which helped people, with and without disabilities, create a Vision for themselves on a Human Rights Committee.

We all learned that 1. all Human Rights Committee members need a better understanding of the rights they are safeguarding and 2. other committees, workgroups and Boards of Directors benefit from having access to members with I/DD or other disabilities who are well-trained and supported.

We are all grateful to SARTAC for this experience and their support of this project."

**– Rebecca Salon**

# Outcome 1

**Quotes from Hosts**

"I learned so much from Chris during this process. It really was a great experience to support him in completing his project and to understand how impactful the project would be for other self advocates. He is amazing, and taught me as much as I taught him."

**–Molly Cole**

"I think my favorite experience in working with Jeff was witnessing the passion with which he engaged community leaders and other partners around the issue of the School to Prison Pipeline. We met with a School Board candidate who was subsequently elected to the Board, with a County Commissioner, with a judge, with more than one attorney, with representatives from the ACLU, with disability advocates working on similar issues, as well as with family members touched directly by the issue. It was awesome to see a community building around a concern we had in common, and to see Jeff building a pool of allies who continue to take little steps from their various angles toward systemic change that promotes equity and inclusion in education."

**–Mark Satterwhite**

# Outcome 1

**Quotes from Hosts**

"What can I say about the SARTAC Fellowships? What an important opportunity to compensate self advocates for their advocacy work, gain valuable experience, push people to expand their limits and increase self-confidence, and provide resources to self advocacy organizations. Hosting a SARTAC Fellow provided both SANYS and the Fellows we hosted with unforgettable memories, new skills, and resources that continue to be utilized.

If there were more paying positions for people with IDD in self advocacy jobs, the outcomes of meaningful work would be easier to reach."

**–Sophia Roberts**

# Outcome 1

**Highlights of Fellows**

## Jeff Johnson

**Fellow from Columbia, Missouri.**

**Completed his Fellowship at People First of Boone County and Boone County Family Resources.**

- Jeff spent his Fellowship year creating resources for families to use when confronting **Segregated Education and the School to Prison Pipeline**. View Jeff's resources.
- **Fellowship project:** "Confronting Segregated Education and the "School to Prison Pipeline." View Jeff's project.

"SARTAC has given a lot of people with disabilities, a lot of knowledge, and experience and understanding of what they can do with their lives." – Jeff Johnson

## John McCarty

**Fellow from Roswell, Georgia.**

**Completed his Fellowship at Creative Consulting Services.**

- John spent his Fellowship year creating videos and other resources on **Supported Decision-Making**. His resources clearly describe **Alternatives to Guardianship**. View John's Resources.
- **Fellowship project:** "It's My Life - Expanding Supported Decision Making." View John's project.

John continues to work as a consultant on grants and projects to promote supported decision-making and to add supported decision making as a legal alternative to guardianship.

# Outcome 1

**Highlights of Fellows**

## Samuel Capozzi

**Fellow from Thousand Oaks California.**

**Completed his Fellowship at the Autism and Communication Center at California Lutheran University.**

- Samuel created resources about getting accommodations to go to college. Many people with developmental disabilities dream of going to college. View Samuel's resources.
- **Fellowship project:** "Point of Access: Accessing Communication, Higher Education, and Community for Non-Speaking Individuals on the Autism Spectrum Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication." View Samuel's project.

## Sorretie Jaro

**Fellow from Spokane, Washington.**

**Completed Fellowship at Washington Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombuds.**

- Sorretie spent the Fellowship year teaching people with intellectual and developmental disabilities effective ways to educate legislators. View Sorretie's resources.
- **Fellowship Project:** "Empowering Legislative Advocates Through Video." View Sorettie's project.

Sorretie continues her work as disability rights advocate as Spokane County Parent Coalition Advocate at the Arc of Spokane.

# Outcome 1

**Highlights of Fellows**

## Danielle McGill

**Fellow from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.**

**Completed Fellowship at the Ann Storck Center, Inc.**

- Danielle spent the Fellowship year working on the "A Ride Away Project:" Increasing awareness of the transportations needs for people with disabilities with recommendations for policy through a guide for self advocates, educators and community members.

Danielle continues her work in advocating for

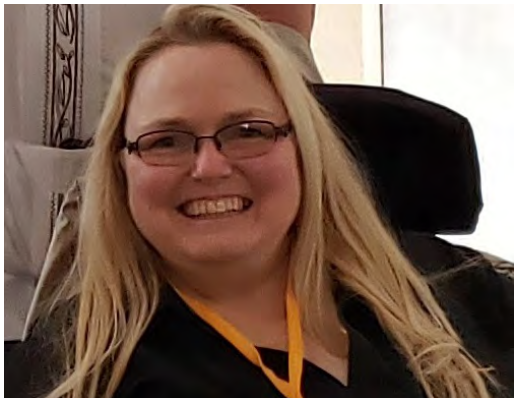
# Outcome 1

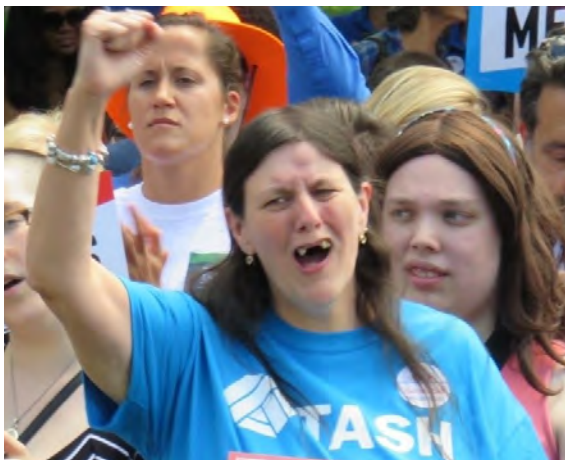
**Increase number of self advocates with paid positions**

# Results

## Objective 2

Project employs 8 Self Advocates to work on Project Activities:





# Outcome 2

**Self Advocacy organizations and allies have increased access to best practices through peer to peer technical assistance**

## How we achieved our goal

Our partners worked together to make it happen!

Green Mountain Self Advocates coordinated the collection and sharing of resources through the project website.

SARTAC provided a Facebook page and technical assistance to local, statewide and regional self advocacy organizations, and coordinated our Zoom calls as a response to the pandemic. SARTAC supported the Southern Collaborative to host Self Advocates Becoming Empowered 2018 National Self Advocacy Conference for self advocacy and their allies to share best practices in the self advocacy community. The project SARTAC Partners supported Regional Self Advocacy centers to host regional events.

ASAN Created plain language information in English and Spanish through partnerships with other organizations on the virus and vaccines to get the message out to self advocates from across the country. They also developed policies and easy-to-read, plain language tools for self advocacy organizations.

# Outcome 2

**Self Advocacy organizations and allies have increased best practices through peer to peer technical assistance**

## How we achieved our goal

Our partners worked together to make it happen!

SARTAC Advisory Committee, supported by SWI, developed organizational tools for self advocacy organizations and to set policy priorities for the project. Priorities included leadership, supports, employment, health care, future of self advocacy and housing.

# Outcome 2

**Self Advocacy organizations and allies have increased best practices through peer to peer technical assistance**

## Results

### Objectives 1-4

The project results included:

Website Stats:

| 03.01.2017-08.31.2021 | |
|---|---|
| Pageviews | **211,272** |
| Users | **81,133** |

**1583** Facebook Posts.

**487** Resources posted to website:

- Self advocacy regional centers resources
- **53** webinar recordings
- **110** video podcasts
- **20** toolkits including: Self Advocacy Startup toolkit, Building Strong Coalitions, and Getting Your Message Out—What is a Position Statement and How to do you Write On.

**304** Documents.

Popular items in at least **2** languages with some translated into **11** languages.

Collaboration with University of Minnesota Institute on Community Living resulting in **44** video stories.

# Outcome 2

**Self Advocacy organizations and allies have increased best practices through peer to peer technical assistance**

## Results

### Objectives 1-4

The project results included:

**299 technical assistance events**

- 41 self advocacy organizations, government agencies and Universities
- Sponsorship of the 2018 National Self Advocacy Conference-"Let's Make it Happen! Disability Rights are Civil Rights" which included 698 Participants and 96 Presentation and special events
- Presented 30 different topical categories which included: COVID-19 information, civil rights and racial justice, housing, ableism, healthcare, Self Advocacy organizations issues, transportation, and plain language.

# Outcome 2

**The Covid Connection Calls**

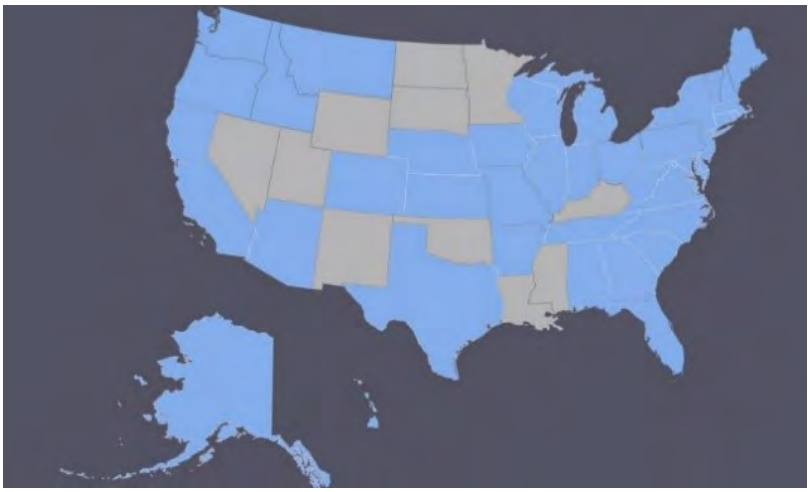
Between March 2020 and August 2021, SARTAC hosted 1-hour long national meetings on Zoom every Monday and Thursday at 1:00 PM ET. Peer leaders from at least 34 states participated at least once a month.

Self-Advocate leaders from Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Texas participated several times annually.

We recruited and supported more than 55 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from 20 states. Speakers were from Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

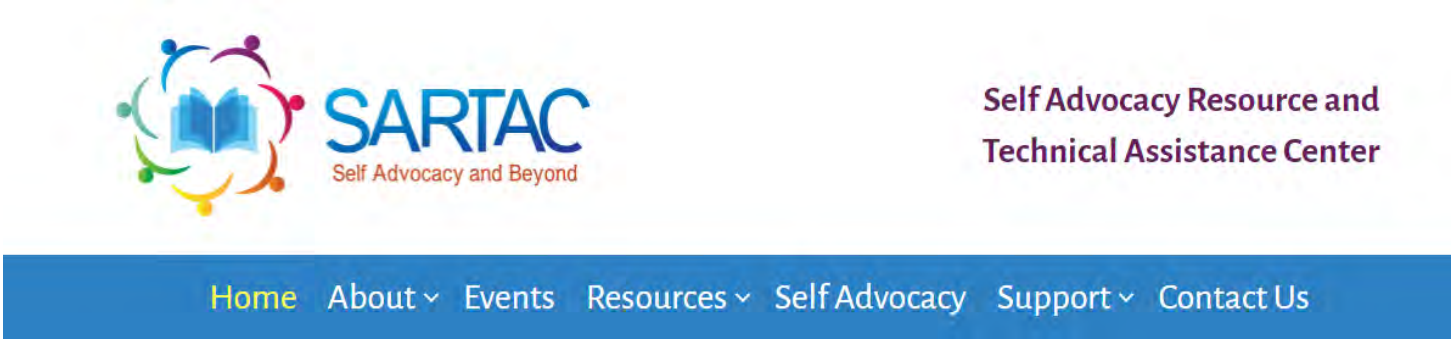
## Overview

- 50 Zoom connections
- 39 states participants
- 55 Self Advocates presented from 20 states
- 72 average attendance



# Outcome 2

**Website & Presentation Feedback**




"I'm going to look for organizations around Maryland Thank you for a powerful and uplifting Video."

"Fantastic website you have got there."

"Thank you. Desperately seeking this type of info for self advocates."

"I am going to translate it to our own simple language (Indonesian) then share within our community. Thank you."

"I just came across your excellent resource related to COVID-19. Great stuff!"

"I'd love to share this resource with Latin American self advocates. Great resource, indeed!"

"I'm an RN, will use for patient education."

"Just wanted to thank you for the good info concerning the corona virus pandemic, very helpful. I received it from a friend, Thanks again. I live in PA."

"Shared this with my deaf friends. Thanks so much."

"Shared with some of my co-workers! Thank you for making this, I'm a shift leader and it is so nice to have correct information that isn't needlessly scary but also is CLEAR!"

"Thank you for this in so many languages!"

"As an LMSW who supports spellers like John, I have forwarded this to attorneys, families, etc. that I know could benefit from these resources. Great job!"

"Thank you so much for sharing your honest, powerful message that helped me really see what I need to do to make changes within my own work!"

"It was such a privilege to learn from your presentation. Your work in Self Advocacy and pushing for person-centered practices make a tremendous impact. I hope to work together again in the future!"

"Thank you so much for taking the time to present to our class, I feel that I really gained further perspective in regard to self advocacy and inclusivity. This is such valuable information, and I really appreciate the knowledge you shared with us :)"

# Outcome 3

**Connect self advocacy movement to other civil and human rights movements**

## How we achieved our goal

Our partners worked together to make it happen!

TASH

TASH did research and video interviews on the history of the movement and other civil rights movements. We looked at what we had in common.

INSTITUTE on COMMUNITY INTEGRATION
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover

We worked with the University of Minnesota-Institute on Community Living to publish Impact Publication on Self-Advocacy.

### Our Common History: Fighting for the Rights of People

By TASH | August 13, 2018

Over time, members of minority groups have joined together to fight for their human and civil rights. This paper describes the history of the African-American Civil Rights Movement, the LGBTQ Movement, and the Self-Advocacy Movement.

Like 0 Share

# Outcome 3

**Connect self advocacy movement to other civil and human rights movements**

## How we achieved our goal

Products

**21** Videos, publications and tools on the history of the self advocacy movement and what we have in common with other civil rights movements.

**10** Video Series on History.

**1** Easy Read Booklet and 7 PowerPoints on Common History of Self Advocacy Movement and Other Civil Rights movement

TASH Connections Newsletter on Self Advocacy Movement

White paper on current views of the Self Advocacy movement

Impact Publication on Self Advocacy

- **46** Authors from SARTAC Project
- **7** Self Advocates and Allies from SARTAC Editors collaborated to produce publication

### Self-Advocacy and Beyond: Interviews with Leaders of the Self-Advocacy Movement

By Self Advocates Becoming Empowered | November 22, 2019

Watch video interviews with 5 Leaders of the Self-Advocacy movement. Click on the person's name and you will go to the page with their video. Lydia X. Z. Brown is…

Read More

# How was our work made possible?

The resource center was funded for five years from 2016-2021 as a Project of National Significance by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities under the Administration on Disabilities.

The Center was funded again by the Administration on Disabilities in September 2021 to continue work in supporting self advocacy.

ACL
Administration for Community Living

# Our Partners in the project

# Conclusions and lessons learned

The successes of the Center over the last five years have moved us closer to the dream of a strong and stable self advocacy network. The Center has provided the movement with a way to make sure the voices of self advocates are heard. It provided a structure for self advocates to lead the center. Activities included building skills for employment, peer to peer support, and developing tools that were easy to understand. The Center helped self advocates with maintaining  connections with others during the pandemic.

Self advocates have led and directed SARTAC and supported self advocates to be truly recognized as the experts on their lives and on policy issues that affect them. The Center has modeled for the nation ways how self advocates can lead a significant National Center. We are excited that the Center will continue its work in strengthening the self advocacy movement for the future.

**SARTAC Advisory Committee Members**