

Community Engagement

Throughout the past year, the Supporting Families' Supports Coordination Innovation Workgroup has been sharing ideas to help SCs fill their buckets to better help them support individuals and families. This resource is guided by the Charting the LifeCourse framework and is the first in a series responding to SCs as they support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, autism, children with medical complexities, and their families.

Supports Coordinators asked for resources to increase access to the community. Being engaged in the community makes people feel connected and safe. Consider the strategies below to support community involvement and relationship-building skills, essential to engaging with neighbors, businesses, service providers, faith-based organizations, and outlets for leisure activities.



- Build upon an individual's strengths and interests to help them seek opportunities that align with their life.
- Include family members in the process! Every family is unique. Having the support of their family members results in more support for community engagement. Family members may also need supports to maximize their ability to best nurture, love, and support all their loved ones to achieve their goals.
- Practice skills necessary to ensure community inclusion and participation, such as communication, socialization, self-help, and interdependence.
- Provide access and arrange opportunities for community engagement.
- Identify preferred avenues of community involvement such as volunteering, taking lessons, or joining a club or support group.

Discovery and Navigation

1. Learn more about why **community participation** for young adults with autism is important: [PaTTAN - D9. Community Participation for Young Adults with Autism: What's Important?](#)
2. Visit the Vision for Equality **events calendar**: www.visionforequality.org/events/
3. Check out Vision for Equality's **Community Engagement page** for upcoming Community Engagement Summits and YouTube Channel: [Community Engagement - Vision For Equality](#)



Connecting and Networking

Connect with ASERT for all of your community needs!

1. **ASERT's Events page** includes nearly 100 organizations, including ODP's training partners, and features select autism-related, community events happening across Pennsylvania: [Events — PAAutism.org, an ASERT Autism Resource Guide](#)
2. **ASERT** has a statewide, interactive **Support Group Map** that lists support, resource, and self-advocacy groups across Pennsylvania: [Support Groups — PAAutism.org, an ASERT Autism Resource Guide](#)
3. **ASDNext's Calendar** includes social and recreational community events for young adults across Pennsylvania: [Social Calendar — ASDNext.org, an ASERT Website for Teens and Adults with Autism](#). Their **Community Page** includes blog highlights, fun facts, monthly word games, a virtual lounge, an art gallery, and more: <https://asdnext.org/community/>.

Goods and Services

1. TechOWL serves as a space for individuals to explore and access tools and technology that fosters independence and growth: [TechOWL – Technology for Our Whole Lives \(techowlpa.org\)](#)
2. This fund supports community engagement activities for individuals: [Achieva | Charitable Funds- Helping People with Disabilities in Need](#)
3. This Transportation Guide can help you problem-solve your specific transportation need: [Readable+Electronic+PA+Integrated+Transportation+Resource+Guide.pdf \(amazonaws.com\)](#)