

Example Project: Learn About Deaf Culture

1. Name of project: *Learn about Deaf culture*
2. Describe your project:
 - a. What will you be doing? *Providing opportunities for the congregation to learn about Deaf culture.*
 - b. Who (name, and title as appropriate) will be responsible for managing the project? *The DRE will be coordinating this activity, assigning a teacher and facilitating it*
 - c. If it requires financing, where will the money come from or how will it be raised? *N/A*
 - d. What approximate percentage of your congregation will be involved? *About 25%, but hopefully more.*
3. Project Plan:
 - *Conduct a class and a worship service focused on Deaf culture.*
 - *Conduct a congregational discussion on how Deaf people can be included in the life of the congregation.*
4. What is the timeline for this project? *Within one and a half years of starting the program*
5. How will people with disabilities be involved in the planning, implementing and evaluating this project? *People with hearing loss will be teaching or helping teach the class and participating in the worship service.*
6. Does this project fall under the category of inclusion, accessibility, or social justice? *Inclusion*
7. Which of your priorities from your needs assessment checklists does this project address? *Since there is a deaf school in our community, we have often talked about reaching out to this community. This will give us the opportunity to learn about how we might do this. It is a medium priority in our assessment.*
8. What is your objective for this project? How does it address your identified priority/ies? Will it completely solve your needs assessment priority or is it one of many steps or alternatives? *Our objective is to provide opportunities for the congregation to learn about Deaf culture. Deaf culture includes the social beliefs, behaviors, art, literary traditions, history, values, and shared institutions of communities that are affected by deafness and that use sign languages as the main means of communication. Members of the Deaf community tend to view deafness as a difference in human experience rather than a disability. In the Deaf culture, the word Deaf is capitalized. This project is just the start of reaching out to the Deaf community. There will be follow-on efforts.*
9. How will you evaluate if you have met your objective? *By a survey of the congregation about how they understand Deaf culture and how ready they feel to conduct an outreach effort.*