

Available Resources for the TASH Conference:

TASH People of Color Initiative:

Working with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, TASH enters the second year of the People of Color Initiative to provide individuals of color with disabilities and their family members enhanced access to the resources of various disability human rights organizations. TASH believes that the full inclusion of people of color in national disability rights organizations is a crucial step in working to bridge the disparities faced by this population.

A family's connection to advocacy organizations such as TASH is often a catalyst for a greater connection to services that meet the needs of families. By attending the TASH Conference, individuals and families of color are able to access learning opportunities, develop local and regional contacts, and establish relationships with other families. Attendance at the TASH Conference facilitates a positive outlook on disability and encourages higher hopes and expectations for the capabilities of people with disabilities.

TASH will provide twenty scholarships to individuals of color with a disability and their family from the Pittsburgh area to attend the 2009 TASH Conference. Twenty scholarships are also available for local individuals and families to attend The Arc conference to be held in Pittsburgh from November 11-14th, 2009.

For more information, including application materials, contact Haley at HKimmet@TASH.org or (202) 540-9015.

Scholarships for Parents of Young Children

The PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning is offering scholarships for families from Pennsylvania with children receiving Early Intervention age birth through five. Please recommend interested families to Mary Staley, mstaley@tash.org, or 570-387-6340.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds

The TASH Conference is a great opportunity for school districts from around the United States to make use of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for professional development of administrators, teachers and resource staff.

The federal stimulus package, known as ARRA, designates \$12B for special education, offering an unprecedented opportunity to transform the way schools educate students with disabilities

Teachers and administrators attending the TASH conference November 18-21 will be able to learn and immediately apply new information about:

- **Improving instructional quality and access to general education curriculum** by differentiating instruction for students who are typically labeled with “severe” disabilities. When classroom teachers understand how to implement Universal Design for Learning and an approach for classroom structure so all students are able to learn the same CONTENT receiving the supports they need, the academic performance of all students is improved.
- **Staffing and management strategies to support inclusion** – Tapping into multiple funding streams, “silo breaking,” moving toward special education as integrated support for the entire instructional system.
- **No need to reinvent** – Research-based strategies and best practices, such as response to intervention, positive behavioral supports, and universal design for learning, are available for dissemination.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors and independent living center staff can also use ARRA funds to attend, and will find many sessions at the conference on inclusive best practices in employment and community living for people with the most significant support needs.

To learn more about federal stimulus funds, visit

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/guidance/idea-b.pdf>

To find out more about the TASH conference, visit

<http://www.tash.org/2009tash/index.htm>.