

Dear Survey Participant,

Researchers at the University of Kentucky are inviting you to take part in an online survey about your experiences in the community as a person with a disability. We are contacting you because you have been identified as a person with a disability or caregiver of a person with a disability. By agreeing to participate in this survey, you will be contributing to our understanding of myths, misconceptions, and stereotypes people with disabilities experience in their communities. We hope to gain insight to any concerns or specific barriers that would limit your access to community resources. The purpose of this research is to gather information about the challenges you face, personal beliefs, and experiences you have had for the creation of educational materials and advocacy efforts within our Kentucky communities. If you are a caregiver, you will provide information from perspective of the person you care for.

Although you will not gain monetary benefit from taking part in this research study, your responses will help us understand more about the challenges, concerns, or accessibility issues you experience within your daily life. If you are a caregiver, you will help us understand the challenges, concerns, or accessibility issues from the perspective of the person you care for. Volunteers often experience a sense of satisfaction knowing that they have contributed to research that may possibly benefit people with disabilities for generations to come.

There are no known risks to participating in this study.

The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete and is a combination of multiple choice and fill in the blank answers. Your responses to the survey are anonymous which means no names, IP addresses, email addresses, or any other identifiable information will be collected with the survey responses. We will not know which responses are yours if you choose to participate. Your answers are important to us as each response gives us greater insight into the concerns and obstacles faced by those with a disability. You have a choice whether or not to complete the survey and you are free to skip any questions or discontinue at any time. You will not be penalized in any way for skipping or discontinuing the survey.

Please be aware that while we make every effort to safeguard your data once received from the online survey company, given the nature of online surveys, we cannot completely guarantee the confidentiality of the data while still on the survey company's servers, or while in route to either them or us. It is also possible the raw data collected for research purposes will be used for marketing or reporting purposes by the survey/data company after the research is concluded depending on the company's Terms of Service and Privacy policies.

If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns related to the survey please contact Patrick H. Kitzman, PhD, MSPT, the research investigator in charge of the study at 859-218-0580, or the staff in the University of Kentucky Office of Research Integrity at 859-257-9428 or toll-free at 1-866-400-9428.

By proceeding to the survey you are indicating that you are at least 18 years old, have read and understood this consent form and agree to participate in this research study. Thank you in advance for your help with this study. To ensure your responses will be included, please submit your completed survey within 2 weeks upon receipt of the secure link.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Kitzman, PhD, MSPT  
Director, Kentucky Appalachian Rural Rehabilitation Network  
College of Health Sciences  
University of Kentucky  
PHONE: 859-218-0580  
E-MAIL: [phkitz1@uky.edu](mailto:phkitz1@uky.edu)