

# Amerika Samoa



# TALOFA





What are some of the self-advocacy organization that currently exist in your state? What are their major activities or functions?



- ❧ . Mapusaga O Le Mafaufau (MOM)
- ❧ . American Samoa does not have a self-advocacy organization.
- ❧ . We have a parent organization
- ❧ . We hope to establish one through the UCEDD Self Advocacy project with schools. “Take A Look At Me” portfolio from Institute on Human Development and Disabilities at The University of Georgia.

# Funding for Self-Advocacy Projects



Name of self-advocacy organization	Funding Source	Resources
UCEDD-Self Advocacy Project	DD Council	Funds
MOM's	DD Council	Funds

What has worked in your state for self-advocacy organization?



☞ Continue to build leadership with self-advocates

What are some challenges or struggles that your state self-advocacy organization have faced?



- ℞ . Funding
- ℞ . Lack self- advocates
- ℞ . Inclusion in society
- ℞ . Not accessible in the community
- ℞ . Bullying issues
- ℞ . Assistive technology
- ℞ . No voice with some agencies
- ℞ . Awareness w/in agencies and community

What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in American Samoa?



- Working as a young group to advocate for persons with developmental disabilities
- Having advocates or family speak out or voice for us
- Family Support network
- Getting involved now to make our life meaningful within the community.



## What goals or dreams does your state have for self-advocacy?



- Form a self-advocacy group
- Learn to use our voices to build self-determination
- Advise other people with disabilities
- Be a role model for others
- Build leaders starting with the youth
- Get involve with advisory councils
- Be a voice at the FONNO (Legislature)



# Self-advocacy Group



- ❧ Lauren Meredith, Self-advocate
- ❧ Fausaga Taufete'e, Self-advocate
- ❧ Marty Mamea, Jr., Self-advocate
- ❧ Josephine Stanley, Self-advocate
- ❧ Norma Smith, DD Council
- ❧ Uta Dr. Laloulu, OPAD
- ❧ Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, UCEDD
- ❧ Paulia Pao-Pelenato, UCEDD