

Why do we want to know about Intellectual Disabilities and Learning Disabilities?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

✓ Why is this survey being done?

The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation wants to understand the experiences families have when seeking services for youth with intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities. The Foundation and the organizations it supports will use this information to help improve services provided to families and youth with intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities. The Tower Foundation has contracted with Wilder Research to complete these interviews.

✓ Do I get anything for participating?

In appreciation of your time, we are offering a \$20 gift card to Amazon, Target, or Walmart which will be mailed after the interview has been completed. Completing the survey will NOT qualify you for additional benefits or services from specific providers or the Tower Foundation.

✓ Who can participate?

If you have a youth up to age 26 who has an intellectual disability or learning disability and you live in Erie or Niagara Counties, you are eligible to complete the survey. Youth with learning disabilities age 14-26 are also invited to participate in a separate survey about their experiences.

✓ What are you going to ask me about?

The survey has questions about experiences families and youth have had in seeking services for an intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities. The questions address types of disabilities, experience accessing supports, and experience with education and employment situations.

An **intellectual disability** is characterized by significant limitations both in mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning, and problem solving, and in adaptive behavior such as conceptual skills, social skills, and daily living skills. The Tower Foundation also includes the autism spectrum under this definition.

✓ How can I take the survey?

Please register for the survey at <http://towerfdn.link/surveysignup>. The survey can be completed online or by phone with an interviewer from Wilder Research. If you do not have access to a computer to register online, please call **1-888-328-2972** and ask for **Terry Franklin** to register and complete the survey over the phone. Surveys will continue through spring 2019. The interview will take about 20 minutes.

A **learning disability** is a condition that interferes with the ability to learn. It is a neurological disorder that affects the ability of the brain to process, store, and respond to information.

help us

*better understand
community attitudes
and experiences*



Do I have to participate?

The study is completely voluntary. Participation (or lack thereof) will not affect your relationship with the Foundation or any other entities. Participation in the study also will not directly connect you to benefits or services for which you may be eligible.



Will my name be used?

We value confidentiality and data privacy. The interviewer will ask for your contact information solely for the purpose of sending you a gift card and inviting you to participate in the next survey in 2020. This information is kept separate from your responses and will not be used in any reports. Your responses will be combined with the responses of other families and youth in your area.



Who will see my data?

Only the researchers at Wilder Research will be able to see your confidential responses. We will ask for your contact information solely for the purpose of sending you a gift card and inviting you to participate in the next survey in 2020. This information is kept separate from your responses. Combined data will be shared in a report with the Tower Foundation, organizations providing services, and participants.



Who should I contact if I have questions about the survey?

If you have any further questions, you can contact Tracy Sawicki, Executive Director of the Tower Foundation, at tas@thetowerfoundation.org or **716-689-0370 x204**. If you are having technical difficulties with the online registration, please call **1-888-328-2972** and ask for **Terry Franklin**.

THANK YOU!!

Finally, thank you so much for participating in this effort!

A summary of the survey results will be shared with all respondents.

We truly could not do this study without you!



PETER & ELIZABETH **TOWER FOUNDATION**