

# Olmstead Consumer Taskforce New Member Application

The Olmstead Consumer Taskforce is currently accepting applications. The application can be filled out online (click "Link to Online Application") or if you prefer to fill the application out and either submit through email or U.S. Mail, there is a link to download a paper copy below as well. Both applications are accessible. The application and more information on the Taskforce can be found at [www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org](http://www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org). **Applications are due on June 1, 2018 by 5pm.**

[Link to Online Application](#)

[Download Paper Application](#)

## Taskforce Membership FAQs

### Q: Who serves on the Taskforce?

A: The Taskforce has 21 voting members. The Taskforce by-laws require that 51% of the members be individuals with disabilities or family members of someone with a disability. Members include:

- Adults of any age with a disability
- Family members of individuals with disabilities
- Individuals who live or have lived in an institutional setting
- People who can represent the interests of older Iowans
- People who can represent the interests of children with disabilities
- Members of statewide advocacy organizations and other advocates for the rights of people with disabilities

### Q: How often does the Taskforce meet?

A: The Taskforce meets six times a year in-person at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, which is located about 15 minutes east of downtown Des Moines. Meetings are held from 10am-3pm with a break for lunch.

- [Link to 2018 Taskforce Meeting Dates](#)

### Q: What are Taskforce member responsibilities?

A: The success and impact of the Taskforce depends on the active participation of its members. Attending and participating in meetings is important, as is having a desire to engage with other members, state agency partners, and others to advocate for the necessary supports to make the vision of "a life in the community for everyone" possible. Taskforce members are asked to:

- Attend six day-long meetings a year either in person or by phone.
- Serve on a committee to continue the work of the Taskforce between meetings. Committees typically meet once between meetings by phone.
- Learn about local, state, and federal issues that impact people with disabilities.
- Ask questions, share information, and work with other Taskforce members to advise state agency partners and others on supports and programs that individuals with disabilities need to be able to live and thrive in the community.

### Q: Are Taskforce members paid?

A: Taskforce members are volunteers. However, the Taskforce currently has funds to reimburse members for the costs of participating on the Taskforce, which includes:

- A \$50 stipend for each full-day meeting
- Reimbursement for the costs of a personal attendant to accompany members to meetings if needed
- Travel costs including mileage, overnight stays, and meals

### Want more information?

- **Get in touch:** Email or call Julie Christensen ([julie-christensen@uiowa.edu](mailto:julie-christensen@uiowa.edu)) or (319)384-5934 with questions about the Taskforce or the application process.
- **Explore our website:** [www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org](http://www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org)