

A stylized teal leaf graphic with a central stem and three leaves, positioned horizontally across the top of the page.

PART 3: COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Who We Learned From and What We Asked Them

To learn more about how to better meet the sexual health needs of young people with I/DD in our county, the iTP3 SHEIDD project decided to do a community needs assessment. We asked young people with I/DD and people who support them to help us answer these questions:

What sexual health education and help do young people experiencing I/DD need?
What kinds of help do support people need to provide sexual health education and support to young people experiencing I/DD?

Multnomah County Health Department's Youth Sexual Health Equity Program worked closely with the iTP3 SHEIDD Community Advisory Group (CAG) to plan the community needs assessment. The CAG is the heart of the iTP3 SHEIDD project and guides its work. CAG members include young people experiencing I/DD, family members, service providers, health care providers, educators, and representatives of community-based organizations and research institutions committed to improving the sexual health education, supports, and services for young people with I/DD in Multnomah County.

Together, we developed two sets of guiding questions to help us design surveys and focus group discussions for **young people** with I/DD and for **support people** who are involved in the lives of young people with I/DD (for example family members, caregivers, service providers, healthcare providers, teachers, etc.). The design of our surveys and focus groups was based on similar work done by others (Evans, McGuire, Healy & Carley, 2009; Löfgren-Mårtenson, 2012; McCabe, 2011; Swango-Wilson, 2011). Once our community needs assessment study was approved by Institutional Review Boards (Appendix A), we invited young people and support people to take the surveys and participate in focus group discussions, or sharing sessions.

Guiding Questions for Young People Experiencing I/DD (Ages 18-21)	Guiding Questions for Support People (Family members, caregivers, service providers, healthcare providers, teachers, etc.)
What do young people who experience I/DD know about sexual health?	What do support people know about the sexual health rights, needs and goals of young people who experience I/DD?
What experiences do young people who experience I/DD have of sexual health education?	What experiences do support people have of providing sexual health education and support to young people who experience I/DD?
What do young people who experience I/DD think that sexual health education should include?	What training/support do support people need to provide comprehensive sexual health education and support to young people who experience I/DD?
How and by whom do young people experiencing I/DD think that sexual health education should be taught?	How do support people want to receive training to prepare them to provide comprehensive sexual health education and from whom?