



Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation
presents the
**2025 Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute for Behavioral Health (EGAI)
APPLICATION**

For 17 years, the Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute (EGAI) has been providing advocacy training in Arizona. EGAI (aka The Advocacy Institute) is designed for people with behavioral health diagnoses, family members (biological or foster families), board members of and staff at child welfare, behavioral health, and managed care organizations, and anyone concerned about ensuring access to quality behavioral health services in Arizona. The goal of the training is to provide a comprehensive overview of the Arizona behavioral health system and to assist you in becoming an effective advocate for those receiving behavioral health services. New this year is a group service-learning project designed to identify a current public policy issue and create an advocacy action plan to solve that problem.

The Advocacy Institute provides information, training, and resources to participants on behavioral health issues as the system continues to move towards integration of physical and behavioral health. We want to empower you at the individual, provider, and system level to be a voice about what works and what needs improvement. The Advocacy Institute will provide participants with opportunities to meet and talk with leaders and advocates in the Arizona behavioral health system. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to meet and unite with others who have a similar interest in creating a powerful voice on important issues. You will learn how various state agencies are responsible for the delivery of integrated behavioral health services and how the public policy process works at the state and national levels to impact behavioral health policy.

Topics Covered

(Subject to change)

History of Behavioral Health System in AZ

Community Resources

Introduction to State Agencies That Deliver Services to Individuals:

The Role of AHCCCS, Departments of Child Safety, Economic Security, Education, Housing,
the Courts & Corrections

State and Federal Legislative Process and Tools for Policy Advocacy

Organizing for Change

Creating YOUR advocacy agenda



Dear Applicant,

When completing the application, please consider the time commitment required to participate in this program. To obtain the greatest benefit from the course, it is important that you attend all sessions.

If you are accepted into the program, a **\$100 course fee will be due prior to the first session.** The fee is refundable only if the accepted student cancels their enrollment **before** the first scheduled class.

The Advocacy Institute will:

- Provide a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages (coffee, water, soda) for each in person session.
- Provide all training materials electronically (hard copies available by prior arrangement for an additional fee)
- Provide access to guest speakers and community resources.

Students will commit to:

- Attend all sessions, (three in person, 6 via Zoom)
- Complete pre/post tests, daily evaluations, all homework assignments, and service-learning project activities.
- Keep Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation informed about advocacy activities after graduation.
- Utilize skills attained through The Advocacy Institute.

Three in person training sessions will be held at Recovery Empowerment Network (REN), 212 E Osborn Rd, Phoenix 85012. There will be 6 lunch hour sessions (11-1) via Zoom which will be recorded.

The Board of Directors of the Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation will review applications. Final selection for The Advocacy Institute should be completed by August 15, 2025 and accepted participants will be notified at that time.

Please remember to complete and return the **full** application (with one letter of reference) by the application deadline of August 1, 2025. If selected for participation, you will need to pay the program fee by check, money order, or credit card at www.azabc.org/eg_institute (cash no longer accepted). All payment is due **by August 29, 2025**, unless other arrangements have been made. You will not be able to attend the first session on September 6, 2025 if your payment hasn't been received. Partial scholarships may be available. Thank you for understanding this.

Thank you!



Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute for Behavioral Health

IN PERSON SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT:

Recovery Empowerment Network (REN)

212 E Osborn Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012

(Those living outside of Maricopa and Pinal counties may be able to attend via Zoom.)

(Please do NOT send applications to this location.)

2025 DATES: Plan now to attend ALL dates!

Session 1: Saturday, September 6, 2025, 8:30 am to 4 pm, IN PERSON

Session 2: Monday, September 8, 11am -1 pm, ZOOM

Session 3: Monday, September 15, 11am -1 pm 1, ZOOM

Session 4: Monday, September 22, 11am -1 pm, ZOOM

Session 5: September 27, 8:30 am to 4 pm, IN PERSON

Session 6: September 29, 11am -1 pm, ZOOM

Session 7: October 6, 11am -1 pm, ZOOM

Session 8: October 13, 11am -1 pm, ZOOM

Session 9: October 18, 8:30 am to 4 pm, IN PERSON

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2025

Email the completed application and one character reference letter to Christine O'Brien at christine@azabc.org, Subject: EGAI, or by physical mail to:

ABC – EG Advocacy Institute

501 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation will notify all applicants regardless of acceptance by **August 15, 2025**. If selected for course participation, course fee can be paid by debit or credit card at www.azabc.org/eg_institute. If paying by check or money order, please make payable to **ABC**. Cash payments are not accepted.

Questions? Contact Christine O'Brien at 602-712-9200, ext. 208 or christine@azabc.org, subject line "ABC – EG Advocacy Institute"

ABC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or military status in selection of participants.



APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION
ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE ITEMS 1-11
 (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

1. **Name**
2. **Street Address** **Apt. #**
3. **City** **County** **ZIP**
4. **Phone** **E-Mail**
5. Please tell us why you think you should be chosen for The Advocacy Institute. What do you hope to learn? How would you use the information you learn? (Use additional sheets if necessary.)
6. Please list any of your recent volunteer activities.
7. How did you learn about The Advocacy Institute?
8. Part of The Advocacy Institute will include a group service-learning project to create an advocacy action plan. Please check any areas of interest to you for this group project.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACT teams | LGBTQIA+ Issues | Residential Services |
| Adults with SMI diagnoses | Hospital Services | Services for SUD |
| Children with SED diagnoses | Mental Health Parity | Services for Veterans |
| Crisis Services | Needs of Foster Children | Services in Jails or Prison |
| Housing Services | Non-BH Services for Adults | Other: Please Specify |
| Justice Involved Members | Non-BH Services for Children | |



9. Please provide any additional information you think The Advocacy Institute should know regarding your application. (Use additional sheets if necessary.)

10. Please check any special dietary requirements:

Vegetarian Gluten Free Dairy Free Other (specify)

Please note: The Advocacy Institute will do its best to accommodate special dietary needs but cannot guarantee meeting all special dietary needs.

11. Demographic Information

(The Advocacy Institute keeps the following information strictly confidential and uses the information only in aggregate to document the population served by the Institute advocacy program for funders of the Institute. Individuals are never identified.)

Age: 18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61 and above Prefer Not to Respond

Race: White Black/African American Latino or Latina
 Native American Asian or Pacific Islander Other or Prefer Not to Respond

Gender: Female Male Non-Binary Other Prefer Not to Respond

12. Are you a parent, guardian, and/or family member of an individual with a behavioral health diagnosis? Yes No

13. Are you an adult who is currently receiving or has received behavioral health services? Yes No

14. Will you need special seating or any other special accommodation (wheelchair space, interpreter services, etc.) to participate in the Advocacy Institute? If yes, please specify: Yes No



QUESTION 15-17 TO BE COMPLETED IF YOU ARE APPLYING AS A BOARD MEMBER, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, OR ORGANIZATION STAFF

15. Which organization/group/board are you associated with? Please list all that apply.

16. How long have you been working with this agency/group/board? What is your role?

17. What motivates your involvement in the Institute? How will you use what you learn in your work with that organization?

Please remember to include your letter of reference (*from a non-family member*).