

SILVER LININGS ADVOCACY™ ACADEMY

Have you ever spent hours meticulously creating an activity or event for youth and young adults and NO ONE SHOWS UP or SHOWS UP ONCE never to be seen again? WE CAN HELP, Enroll in SLA today!

- Discover What Works
 - Use Change as Leverage
 - Increase Levels of Y/YA Participation
 - Analyze Risks and Benefits
 - Uncover hidden tokenism
 - Create Readiness
 - Develop a fool-proof Action Plan
- Join the growing national network of SLA™ PRACTITIONERS



**Also, an
Amazing
Networking
Opportunity**



**DEBRA CADY, LCSW
FOUNDER & CEO**



SILVER LININGS ADVOCACY™ ACADEMY

WHAT IS IT?

SILVER LININGS ADVOCACY™ (SLA) ACADEMY PROGRAM IS AN INTERACTIVE, 10-WEEK VIRTUAL TRAINING. IT IS DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE YOUR ABILITY TO CREATE WORLD CLASS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT INVOLVED, TRAUMA-INFORMED ADVOCACY, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

WHO SHOULD SIGN UP?

Youth and Family Coordinators Peer Specialists
Direct Practitioners Directors and CEO's
Advocates for Y/YAs Program Managers/Supervisors

All staff who CREATE, RECRUIT, or IMPLEMENT Y/YA ADVOCACY EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, COUNCILS, OR BOARDS.

Next TWO COHORTS

7/28 - 9/29/2021, 11:00AM-1:30PM ET

1/26 - 3/30/2022, 2:00PM-4:30PM ET

Investment: \$1997 per participant

FOR MORE INFO OR DATES CONTACT:
DEBRA@SILVERLININGSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Why SLA?

~~Tokenism~~
o Eliminate!

Experience the TRANSFORMATION!
Become a SLA Practitioner NOW!



This will forever change the way you approach youth and youth work. It LITERALLY creates a paradigm shift within you. It was also beautiful to build community across the globe with other youth workers.



SLA is a way to change the way young adults are treated in programs created for them. It offers self-exploration; you can train others to continue the growth that benefits youth. It will help you share with administrators in a way that will have a better chance of positive outcome.



SLA caused me to reflect on some of my past decisions as a clinician and equipped me with the tools needed to making better choices when involving young people in activities. It assists you in making ethical judgements when involving young people in agency activities.

SILVERLININGSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Summer/Fall 2021 Silver Linings Advocacy™ Academy Registration Information

Next two cohorts:

Summer/Fall 2021 July 28 – September 29, 2021, concurrent Weds, 11:00am – 1:30pm ET

Winter/Spring 2022 January 26 – March 30, 2022, concurrent Weds, 2:00pm – 4:30pm ET

To register:

1. Choose one cohort, click on the appropriate link, fill out the form and submit.

Summer/Fall 2021 Registration Link: [Summer/Fall 2021 SLA Registration](#)

Winter/Spring 2022 Registration Link: [Winter/Spring 2022 SLA Registration](#)

Where: Virtual Zoom meetings – Zoom link will be sent after all registration closes, approximately one week before the class.

Why become a SLA™ Practitioner?

- ✓ To **effectively, safely, and ethically lead youth and young adult involvement** activities and events.
- ✓ **Improve outcomes** for Y/YA and your agency and **increase Y/YA involvement**
- ✓ Become a **subject matter expert** to create and implement **non-tokenizing, low risk/high impact** Y/YA events and activities
- ✓ **Grow your resume** and project management skill set
- ✓ Be a part of the monthly **National SLA™ Connected** community of practitioners network
- ✓ Use your new skills to create **highly effective and innovative projects** for **any event or activity**
- ✓ **Make a difference, increase job satisfaction**, and teach others how to make a difference too
- ✓ More **positive exposure of your agency's work** and **Y/YA accomplishments**
- ✓ Learn more about what **Y/YA really want and need** from your agency and deliver
- ✓ **Incorporate and promote best practice** in **contracts, policies, and procedures** that involve Y/YAs

What you are risking?

- ✓ You are **investing time** (4-5 hours per week) into an intensive Academy program that takes you away from your work and “other duties as assigned”
- ✓ You may **experience “push back”** from your colleagues and leadership as you implement the SLA™ 8 steps of best practice to creating non-tokenizing, low risk/high impact Y/YA events and activities because it's a new approach

What is the Silver Linings Advocacy™ (SLA) Academy Program?

The SLA™ program is a 10 week, virtual training. It is designed to help you, both the experienced and the novice adult ally of transition age youth, learn the SLA™ Best Practice 8 Step process to create and implement non-tokenizing, low risk, high impact youth/young adult (Y/YA) involvement events and activities. The SLA™ Academy Program is the first and only training of its kind.

Desired Outcomes. As a fully engaged participant in the Silver Linings Academy™ (SLA) Program, you will leave the training as a SLA™ practitioner, able to implement the 8 step planning to implement process to any project, event or activity. By the end of the SLA™ program, you will have a complete action plan to launch a new or re-invigorate an existing Y/YA (or other vulnerable population) involvement event or activity; and your action plan will:

1. **Eliminate tokenism;**
2. **Increase Y/YA participation and involvement;**
3. **Minimize or mitigate risk for Y/YAs and your agency; and**
4. **Maximize positive outcomes for Y/YAs and your agency.**

Intended Audiences. The program is designed for two audiences: direct practitioners who prepare and support Y/YAs to do advocacy work, peer-run activities, boards, councils, or events; and for program directors/managers to prepare and support their agency staff to implement successful Y/YA involvement activities.

SLA™ program is for any staff or adult ally who is responsible for the design, preparation and/or oversight of youth/young adult (or other vulnerable population) advocacy events and activities.

This Academy program is also instrumental to guide supervision, monitoring, and oversight of staff or contractors who lead Y/YA (or other vulnerable population) involvement project, activities, and programs.

Whether you are an administrator or a direct practitioner, this program is for you.

"It was interesting to hear about some org leadership being disconnected from their "why" - and how this can open the door for tokenism or a number of other unhealthy/damaging practices. Being in touch with your "why" connects you to your own power and allows work to happen with clarity and intention. This framework you are presenting is critical if we want to see youth services work become more effective!" Jon Berestecky, Director Transitional Living – Spring SLA™ Class 2021

Silver Linings Advocacy™ Academy Program Overview

Silver Linings Academy™ (SLA) Program is a 40-hour program that results in knowledgeable SLA™ Practitioners who apply the SLA™ 8-Step process for **non-tokenizing, safe, and effective Y/YA Involvement** whether it be a peer-run activity, workgroup, committee, panel, board, or council.

The SLA™ 8-step process

1. **Purpose.** Define and discover the underlying purpose for Y/YA involvement
2. **Outcomes.** Dream and articulate Y/YA event goals and outcomes
3. **Method.** Assess for and select the best non-tokenism method of delivery
4. **Benefit/Risk.** Identify and analyze benefit/risks to Y/YAs and to the organization
5. **Readiness.** Create mitigation remedies, like agreements, policies, and training
6. **Change Leverage.** Identify and apply Stages of Change as powerful change levers
7. **Action Plan.** Create tasks and action steps for project recruitment and implementation
8. **Assessment.** Conduct a SLA™ project self-assessment and assess others' projects

As a fully engaged participant in the SLA™ Program, you will leave the training able to make improvements immediately. With new skills, knowledge and abilities, you will experience a transformation and be able to:

- ✓ Design **effective, safe, and ethical Y/YA involvement activities** like peer activity clubs, workgroups, panels, or councils without tokenizing or unintentionally traumatizing Y/YAs
- ✓ **Maximize outcomes with powerful change leverage**
- ✓ Conduct a self-assessment and assess others' project, so you can **learn to adapt and innovate**

Here's how I'll help you learn. Over 10 weeks, you'll have both self-study (20 hours) materials and project related activities to read and complete on your own and virtual live zoom classes (20 hours) that include an orientation, mini-lectures, small and large group discussions meant to stretch your thinking and deepen your learning experience (weeks 1-8). On weeks 9 and 10, you will present and get feedback on your final project (5 hours). That is a total of 45 hours including the work that you complete on your own.

"It is great for literally anyone that plans to work with Y/YA! I loved the instructor's attitude and energy. It made me more passionate for my project! ~ Hailey Pruett, OnTrack Recovery Coach – Spring SLA™ Class 2021

SLA™ Academy Participant Requirements

You will receive a certificate of completion as a SLA™ practitioner when you attend all of the live zoom modules of the SLA program and complete an individual or group project by the end of the 10th week of the program, unless you have an exception plan.

Attendance requirements

The virtual program is run similarly to an in-person program and sessions. You must be in attendance at all live virtual sessions and have assignments completed by the end of the program to receive a certificate of completion. You are able to make up missed sessions by working with SLI (Debra) to create an exception plan.

Project requirements

You get to choose the project you will use for SLA™. It can be an individual or group project. You must choose a youth and young adult involvement (or other vulnerable population) activity such as a new or existing workgroup, peer run activities, committee, panel, board, activity, or council, etc. The project you choose is the one that you will use throughout the length of the program to apply each of the 8 steps of best practice in 8 assignments.

The projects must be completed by Weeks 9 or 10, unless you have an exception plan. You will deliver a 10 minute presentation to showcase your work and demonstrate your ability to apply the 8 Steps of best practice. You will receive feedback from the group on adaptations and innovations to enhance your work. Providing written feedback to others' projects is a component of the SLA™ program and you are expected to attend all project presentations. You will sign up for your timeslot by the end of Week 4. If you are not able to complete your project by the end of the program, you must make arrangements with SLI and develop an exception plan.

Exception Plan

If you are not able to attend all 10 classes and/or complete my project in its entirety by the end of the program, you must make arrangements ahead of time (24 hrs) to make up any missed module. You will enter into an "exception plan" with SLI that will outline a personalized plan based on what you missed to get you caught up and keep you moving towards completion of SLA™.

You must get an "exception" approval from SLI prior to the end of the 10th week of the program to receive this exception. On an exception plan, you have one year to complete missed assignments and deliver your project presentation to SLI and other SLA™ practitioners with no additional cost to you. If you do not meet the exception requirements within a year, you will not receive a completion certificate.

SUMMARY of SLA™ Academy Program Requirements

- Attend all 20 hours of live, online training (be on time and stay for the entire module)
- Complete and submit 8 weekly assignments on the learning platform from each of the 8 modules
- Complete 2 program evaluations (one at midway and one at completion)
- Create a project action plan
- Conduct a project self-assessment
- Complete and deliver a (10 min) project presentation in Weeks 9 or 10.
- Provide feedback to other student's projects

Want to become a Certified SLA™ Trainer so you can train others in future SLA™ Academies?

If you wish to become certified to be SLA™ Trainer, you must successfully complete SLA™ within a year of participating in the academy. Then you must complete an application to be accepted into the SLA™ Trainer-of-the-Trainer (TOT) program. The SLA™ TOT will begin to accept applicants for the first cohort of trainers in 2022. So look for updates on this new offering.

FAQs

Can I train others in the SLA™ 8 steps of best practice? You are strongly encouraged to share the SLA™ 8 steps of best practice, your newfound skills, and knowledge with your colleagues. You may not use the materials to conduct a SLA™ Academy on your own.

"I loved the benefits and risk analysis and I think I will be able to use that in many different areas of my work as I go about making decision. I also enjoyed Hart's ladder and will think about those stages as I try to increase youth voice and choice at my agency. A reminder of the stages of change is also always helpful. On a practical note, I liked the use of mentimeter word cloud and have already planned to utilize this to increase participation in an upcoming presentation."

~ Kris Schonewill TN Healthy Transitions Project Coordinator, Spring SLA™ Class 2021

"Silver Linings Advocacy is truly best practice for working with youth and young adults. The project you choose to complete can just be how to take the eight principles and apply them to your work. It's a lot of work but incredibly worth every moment."

~ Jules Wilson, TN Healthy Transitions Program Director – SLA™ Pilot student 2020 and Spring Class of 2021

For any questions email: debra@silverliningsinternational.org

Visit the website: <https://www.silverliningsinternational.org/>