

Essential Eligibility for the L.I.F.E. Program

The LIFE Program is a year-round life skills enrichment program designed to meet the needs of individuals 22 – 35 years old with mild to moderate levels of cognitive disabilities. While it is generally NISRA's intent to accommodate participants in all NISRA programs regardless of his or her needs, not all individuals with disabilities are eligible for the LIFE Program. It is necessary for potential applicants to meet the essential eligibility criteria listed below in a 1:5 staff to participant ratio without additional accommodations that would deviate from the basic nature and goals of the activity.

Essential Eligibility Criteria

Participation Expectations – Due to the nature and goals of the LIFE Program, all participants must:

- Actively participate and show independence in the variety of planned activities and daily tasks
- Interact and be socially engaged with peers for an extended period of time
- Be a contributing member of the group and be able to work toward goals of the program
- Cope positively with changing situations
- Demonstrate flexibility
- Physically tolerate the high activity level and the logistics of the program

Code of Conduct – Due to the nature and goals of the LIFE Program, all participants must follow the general code of conduct:

- Show respect to all participants, staff, and public
- Listen to and comply with staff direction and program rules
- Allow others in the program and others at public facilities to enjoy the activity without disruption (within reason)
- Refrain from using abusive/foul language or other offensive behaviors such as offensive gestures, sexually explicit language, or inappropriate touching
- Refrain from causing bodily harm or offensive physical contact
- Show respect to equipment, supplies, and facilities

Behavior – Due to the nature and goals of the LIFE Program, all participants must show appropriate behavior that will not affect the safety of any individual including his or herself.

Personal Care – Due to the nature and goals of the LIFE Program, all participants must be able to care for their own personal needs with reasonable accommodation. With no assistance, individuals must be able to use the washroom and change themselves independently. Assistance will be provided for an individual with a physical impairment for transferring in and out of his/her wheelchair.

L.I.F.E. Program Application Process

- The L.I.F.E. Coordinator will schedule an intake assessment, interview and tour of the program with the inquiring participant and family or guardian.
- The assessment and interview process will determine the specific needs of that applicant and whether he or she meets the eligibility criteria of the program.
- All decisions regarding eligibility will be made by NISRA.