



Bridge Builders (LOV Inc. staff) work with project members (individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities) to identify personal interests, set goals, and make lasting, natural connections in community settings. Members have engaged in a variety of activities through the Bridge Builder Project, including but not limited to volunteering, joining a sports league or team, training and support around using paratransit and ride-share services, connecting with a community member for friendship and recreation, and more.

The project member and Bridge Builder continue identifying new goals to work on, with the Bridge Builder's support eventually fading once the member's connections are established and sustainable. The frequency and type of support varies depending on the member's goals and changes throughout a member's time in the project. Bridge Builders help members make connections but are not themselves the members' connection.

Project members make the most progress with Bridge Builder work when:

- The member has interests or hobbies they would like to explore or is open to exploring new interests.
- The member agrees to develop and work toward goals. We support each individual member and fit our work to their skills, goals, and personalities. We hope for growth in members but will only be able to work with members on goals they agree to.
- The member and family agree that progress will be slow and steady because the best outcomes cannot happen overnight.
- The member has the autonomy to work with the Bridge Builder on defining and clarifying goals. Family input is critical but does not outweigh member input.
- The member has access to transportation (bus, cab, paratransit, support staff) or can get rides when needed.
- The member and family are comfortable taking some risks.

Expectations of Bridge Builder project members and their families:

- Families and members are asked to return calls/emails promptly so we can keep progress moving forward.
- Project members' schedules and transportation are primarily the responsibility of the member and family.

Cost: The Bridge Builder Project has two rates: \$63.00/hour for Individual (1:1) support and \$29.00/hour for Group support. This can be paid privately or with IRIS, Family Care, or CLTS funds.

Questions? Contact Virginia Harrison, Bridge Builder Project Manager, at virginia@lovinc.org