Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD): Why and How
Handout 1: Programming Best Practices

1. Build relationships with all stakeholders: adults patrons with DD, caregivers, agencies, and self-advocates and allies in the community.

2. Include the voices and perspectives of adults with DD in program planning and implementation.

3. Partner with community organizations and advocacy groups for program planning, promotion, and implementation.

4. Create a culture of inclusion in the library.

5. Develop inter-departmental collaborations such as accessibility teams.

6. Train all staff, more than once and in more than one way.

7. Expand existing programs for children, teens, and adults so they work for everyone, and train presenters to make their programs inclusive.

8. Use chronological age to determine which programs you offer, and developmental age to guide the expansions you make to ensure accessibility.

9. Offer a variety of programs to ensure you meet individual needs, abilities, and interests, and offer choice within programs.

10. Recruit adults with developmental disabilities to be library volunteers and employees.

11. Develop a comprehensive marketing plan that includes community outreach, an accessible website, and an easy-to-find "accessibility programs and services" webpage.

Prepared by Carrie Banks and Barbara Klipper, 2020