**Overview.** The City Council of Shady Grove, WI (city of 50,000) has just announced that it will be overhauling its summer programs for children and youth between now and next summer. There will be a new Director of Summer Youth Programs, new curricula and activities, and new equipment. Up until now, these programs have not generally been open to children and youth with disabilities or special health care needs. This has meant that families of these children and youth have had to fend for themselves in figuring out what to do in the summer. Some parents have actually had to cut back on their paid work hours in the summer and/or spend personal funds on child care, while the parents of non-disabled children have had access to a variety of free programs run by the city.

The announcement of the summer program overhaul is the first real opportunity to make these programs inclusive and accessible. So you and a handful of other parents have decided to seize the opportunity.

**Stage 1. Getting organized**

What would your team do in the first 90 days to get organized and position yourselves to achieve your goal of fully inclusive, accessible summer programs for children and youth in Shady Grove, BEFORE you take any public action?

**Stage 2. Developing an Action plan**

Let’s assume that you now have:

a) a steering group,

b) a general idea of what kinds of summer programs are most promising to achieve inclusion of children and youth with disabilities, and

c) a general statement about the importance of inclusion in summer youth programs.

What are the Key Elements of your Action Plan? Assume you have 6 months before the City Council intends to take final action on the new Plan.

**Stage 3. Including the “Customers” in the Project**
One of the steering group members posed an interesting question: “How could we involve some of the children and youth with disabilities who will be enrolled in the new programs in the planning, public advocacy, or implementation phases of the project?”

Brainstorm possible answers to this question, and use a consensus process to select the 5 most promising answers to present to the large group.

**Stage 4. A New Challenge**

You have now learned that the accessible equipment and materials you are recommending to be included in the Plan will cost $20,000 more than the more typical, non-accessible equipment and materials they would otherwise have purchased. So including your proposed equipment and materials in the Plan will exceed (by $20,000) the original budget guidelines the City Council set for the project.

The City’s Budget Committee is scheduled to review the project budget at its next meeting two months from now. That committee will make a recommendation to the full City Council of whether to adopt or reject the proposed budget for the project. The full Council rarely disagrees with the Budget Committee’s recommendations. What will you do between now and the day of the Budget Committee meeting?