

The Participation Path:

Involving people supported in our advocacy efforts

This resource was created to help Karis employees advocate **for** people supported **with** people supported. It describes five roles that people supported often play in advocacy. This guide is based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, which is a globally recognized model.



**Collaborative
Advocacy Guide**

karis  **Disability
Services**

What roles can people supported play?

There are many different ways to advocate. Similarly, there are many ways to involve people supported in advocacy.



People supported are focused on

When Karis staff are asked to speak about people with disabilities, they use photos and stories to **focus on** real people supported by Karis. They ask permission before using these photos and stories.



People supported are asked about

When Karis staff plan to talk to others about people with disabilities, they **ask** people supported what they should share. Karis staff may change what they plan to say based on what people supported share.



People supported are invited to

When Karis staff are asked to speak about people with disabilities at meetings or events, they **invite** people supported to come with them.



People supported are part of

Karis staff invite people supported to be **part of** the advocacy team! People supported may help plan and speak at meetings or events.



People supported are leaders

People supported are **in charge!** They tell others about how to make life better for people with disabilities. They choose what they want to say and do. Karis staff may help them.

What does it look like?

The examples below were shared by Karis program managers and staff who work with Our Voices Matter (OVM) across Ontario and Saskatchewan.

People Supported are focused on

- Karis staff share photos and stories about people supported on the Karis website.

People supported are asked about

- Karis leaders ask people supported what the next strategic plan should look like.
- Karis leaders ask people supported what they should tell others about living with a disability.
- Karis staff ask OVM what they think of a project.

People supported are invited to

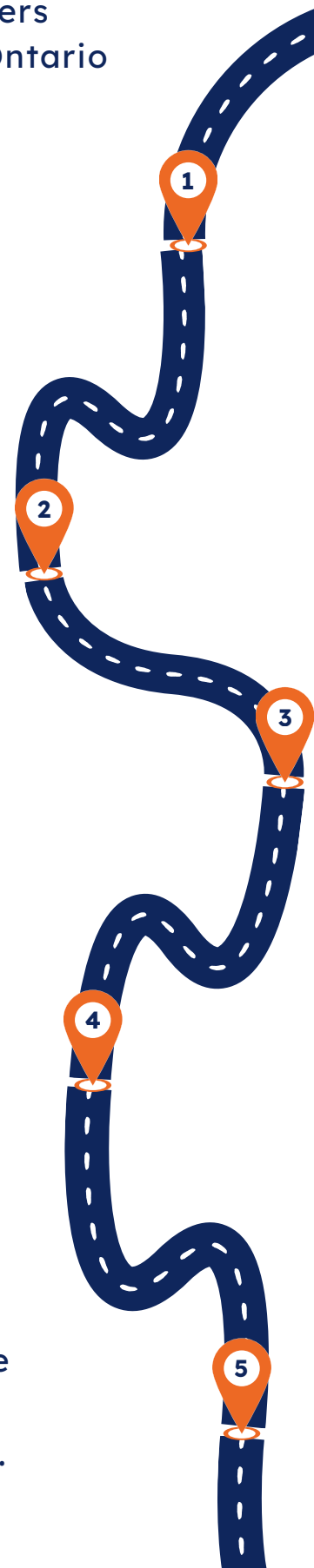
- People supported are invited to Connection Meetings, ACMs, House Meetings, and Team Meetings.
- People supported go with Karis staff to events.

People supported are part of

- People supported help plan and host Karis events.
- People supported are part of the Excellence Awards Review Committee at Karis.
- People supported help Karis staff decide who to hire.

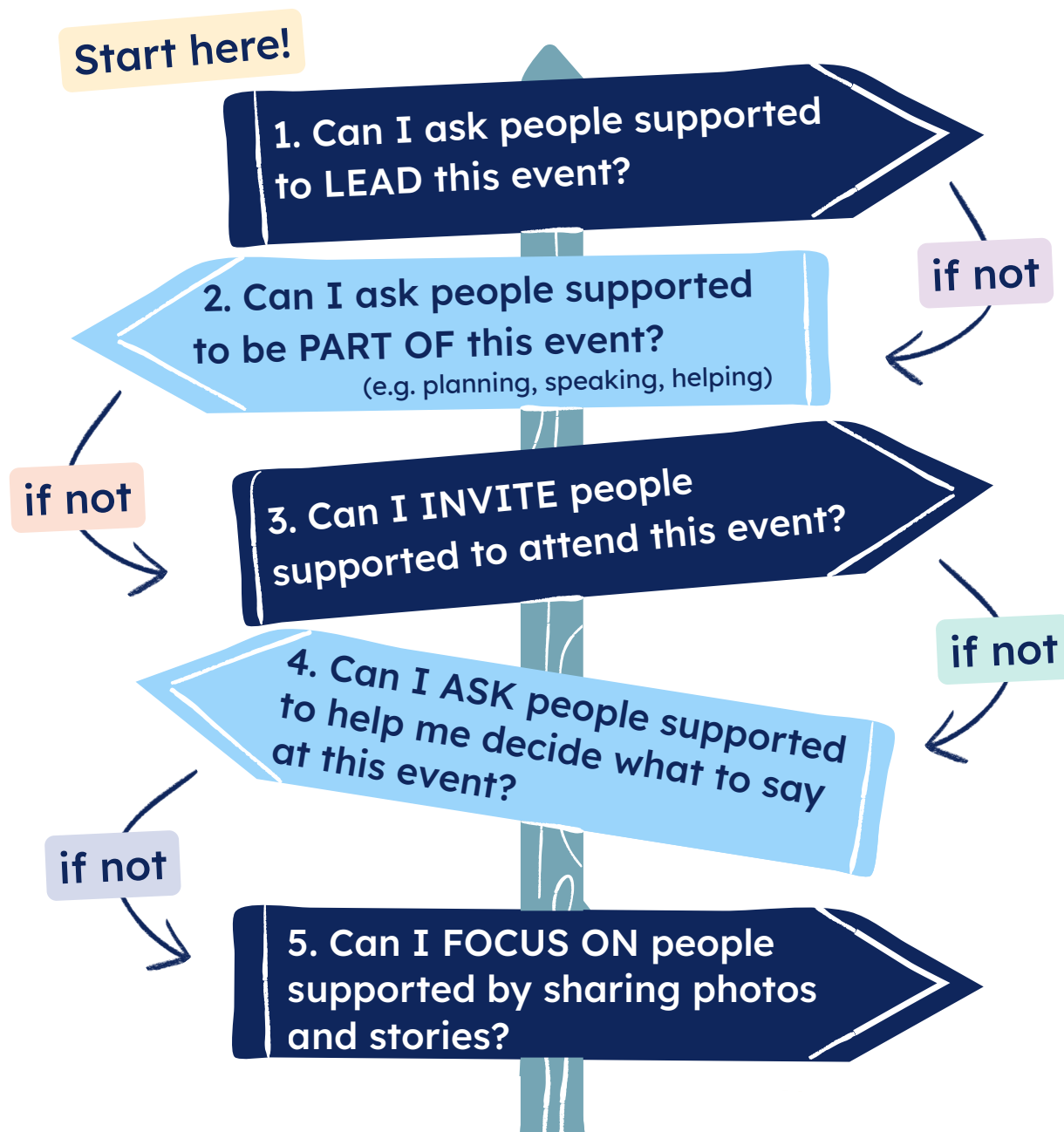
People supported are leaders

- People supported go to Parliament and advocate.
- People supported plan their district's celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- People supported decide how their personal plan looks.



Where should I start?

Whenever you have an opportunity to advocate on behalf of Karis Disability Services, ask yourself these questions:



Visit our website to learn more about self-advocacy:
karis.org/get-involved/participate



karis Disability Services