## Disability in Focus, January 2020

# **Training for Healthcare Providers Improves Disability Competence**

After taking *Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care & Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities*, healthcare providers' ideas about disability shifted away from a medical-model to a more social-model view of disability. In the medical model, disability is seen as a problem to fix or cure. In the social model, the problem stems from an environment that is not fully inclusive or accessible to people with disabilities.

## Medical Model



## Ideas of disability before training:

- 1. Specific diagnoses
- 2. A wheelchair
- 3. Communication challenges

### Social Model



### Ideas of disability after training:

- 1. Communication challenges
- 2. Physical environment
- 3. Social environment

Many healthcare providers who took the training said they would change some of their care strategies.

Trainees were better able to list specific ways that they could offer accessible, disability-competent care.



"It reminded me to treat every patient individually."



Create personalized care plans ahead of time.



Speak directly to the patient and respect their autonomy.



Communicate more effectively using different methods.



Due to many requests for more disability-competence training, a new module, *Responsive Practice:*\*\*Accessible & Adaptive Communication, is now available online, free, and on-demand at <a href="www.ResponsivePractice.org">www.ResponsivePractice.org</a>.