

You are invited to participate in research study to assess effectiveness of FIRME program (Families Included in Receiving better Special Education)



The University of Illinois at Chicago is conducting a research study to assess the effectiveness of FIRME training in educating Latino and Hispanic families/parents in advocating for their children with disabilities. Individuals will be eligible to participate if: (1) the participant is over 18 years of age, (2) the participant is the parent of a child with a disability and has an IEP, (3) the parent self-identifies as either Latino or Hispanic, (4) the participant agrees to complete the pre, post, and follow-up surveys, and (5) the parent can participate if they are the legal guardian of a child that is 18 years of age who is on an IEP program.

You will be randomly assigned to either FIRME Intervention group or Control group. If you are assigned to the FIRME intervention group you will be asked to:

- (1) Participate in 4 FIRME training sessions, one time a week, for four weeks, each session lasting 3 hours; and to write a written testimonial at the end of the fourth session.
- (2) Complete 3 online surveys (pre- and post- and follow up to intervention) lasting 25-30 minutes each to provide some demographic information and evaluate effectiveness of FIRME training program.
- (3) Participate in a 30 minutes audio recorded telephone interview after the completion of the FIRME training sessions followed by a 5 minutes follow up phone call to check the accuracy of your interview transcriptions.
- (4) Participate in one 1-hour FIRME booster training session at the end of 3 months to review what you did in the program and complete the above follow-up online survey.

If you are assigned to “Control” group you will be asked to: (1) complete the same three online pre-and-post-and-follow up surveys which last 25-30 minutes; but (2) you will be asked to complete the FIRME training program six weeks after the intervention group participants complete their training. At the completion of the FIRME training sessions, you will participate in a 30 minutes audio recorded telephone interview followed by a 5 minutes follow up phone call to check the accuracy of your interview transcriptions. You will not receive the FIRME Booster session.

All FIRME training sessions will be audio and video recorded and conducted via UIC Zoom video conference platform.”

Notably, you are the legal guardian of your child that is between the ages of 3-18 and you advocate for your child during IEP meetings. If your child is 18 and you are his/her legal guardian, you are able to participate in the training. However, if your child is his own legal guardian at his/her IEP meeting, they will not be able to participate in the training as this training

solely focuses on parents/guardians to advocate for their children. To compensate for your time, you will be emailed \$10 gift certificate after each FIRME training session (not including the Booster session) for up to \$40 in gift cards and \$10 gift certificate after you complete the interview. The training will be offered in Spring 2021 and Summer 2021.

Training dates: Thursdays or Saturdays starting either March 18th/March 20th *
OR
Thursdays or Saturdays starting either May 20th/ May 22nd*

*** The research team will notify you with your training date upon completion of the pre-survey**

Location: UIC Zoom

Time: 9am-12pm both days

If you came to this flyer via social media site and you are interested to participate, please contact the investigator directly at the email and phone number indicated below and outside of the social media site. If you “like, share, or comment” or contact investigator via social media, then the social media can track you as per usage agreement you accepted and may share your information with advertisers.”

If you are interested in participating in the study or if you would like more information, please contact: Kristina Rios, kr6@uic.edu, 661-586-7698

