



Civilian Program Criteria

Thank you for your interest in The Joys of Living Assistance Dogs (JLAD). Our mission:

To provide skilled, devoted companions to support and assist persons living with disabilities – creating cohesive teams focused on building a life of greater freedom and independence.

JLAD conducts its business and acceptance process in a manner that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, veteran status, genetic information, military assistance, or other protected status.

Applicant Criteria:

1. The applicant must be at least 14 years of age to apply for this program. However, to be eligible for placement of a dog a client must be 16 years of age.
2. JLAD dogs assist people with primary mobility impairment such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, paraplegia, tetraplegia, arthritis, amputation, stroke, or traumatic brain or spinal cord injury, and PTSD. JLAD does not train dogs to assist individuals with seizure disorders, blood sugar disorders, those with significant vision loss, and companion or emotional support dogs. The client must be able to perform all handling requirements. If the disability limits the client's ability to participate in Team Training, an assistant may help with writing tasks.
3. Applicant must have a qualifying disability that impacts your quality of life, independence, and activities of daily living.
4. The task(s) to be trained must be directly related to the client's disability.
5. JLAD will determine acceptance of applicant based on the task-based needs of the applicant.
6. Applicants must have a referral or recommendation by your healthcare provider.
7. Applicants must be willing and able to provide for the dog's physical, emotional, and financial needs.
8. Applicants must have a stable home environment, support of all other household and family members, be financially stable, open minded, and have a willingness to learn.

Program Criteria

All of our dogs are trained in basic obedience commands, house manners, and how to behave in public. Our dogs are also trained in technical skills such as: retrieving, opening doors, turning lights on and off, balance assistance, bracing, social interaction, and PTSD. In regard to this training, our dogs:

1. must facilitate friendly public interaction
2. meet all existing Assistance Dogs International (ADI) standards regarding temperament and behavior, as well as exhibit:
 - tolerance to a high level of stress
 - sensitivity without anxiety
 - the ability to perceive environmental and interpersonal cues
 - the ability to complete tasks in very difficult and emotional situations
 - no reactivity, possessiveness, guarding behaviors or increased anxiety.
3. meet all existing ADI obedience, accessibility and training standards including training with visual, verbal, or environmental cues to do three visually identifiable tasks that directly mitigate the recipient.

Special skills are trained on an individual basis. **JLAD will NOT train behaviors that encourage guarding, protecting, or searching for a threat.** In addition, our dogs are not trained for emotional support or medical alert. Dog availability may take approximately 3 years.

To be considered for our program, you must fill out an application. JLAD requires a non-refundable \$150.00 application fee. Upon acceptance of the application JLAD will schedule an in-home visit, Skype, or Facetime, depending on your distance from our headquarters. The purpose of this visit is to meet with you, as many family members as possible, any others living in your home, and family pets. This meeting helps JLAD understand all elements that will influence the working environment of a service dog. Upon acceptance into our program, we will start the process of looking for a suitable match. Timing and placement of your assistance dog depends on the availability of a suitable dog.

Once a dog that JLAD deems a suitable match becomes available, you will be notified. We will provide you more information about the dog and when the next Team Training will be held. Team Training varies depending on the program and will be explained further during the first visit. It costs between \$25,000-\$30,000 to raise and train a service dog. We however only charge \$9875 plus a \$400 surcharge for credit card users. Prices are subject to change each calendar year; however, prices will be honored for the year the application was received. Payment arrangements must be made upon acceptance of the application and must be paid in full before the beginning of Team Training. If the applicant, through no fault of JLAD, fails to complete team training, the dog remains the property of JLAD, and the \$9875 will be retained by JLAD. You **MUST** attend a Team Training and pass a Public Access Test before JLAD will allow you to take your assistance dog home. Team Training varies depending on the program and will be explained further during the first visit.

After service dog placement, JLAD will follow up with the client and their dog to assure a smooth transition into this new, working partnership.

No applicant, client, or graduate is required to participate in fund raising or public relations activities without their expressed and voluntary permission to cover any program cost or after care follow-up visits.

If you have further questions, please contact us at: 503-551-4572 or info@joydogs.org. Fillable applications can be accessed on our website at <https://www.joydogs.org>

By signing below, I acknowledge having read the terms of this document and accept the conditions set forth by JLAD. This signed program criteria must accompany the application.

Signature of applicant

Date

Printed Name