Lupus Support Group Facilitator Role Description

LFA Support Group facilitators should have a true desire to help people with lupus and their families, in addition to having a basic understanding of lupus and how it can affect the body. The LFA has many educational resources in a variety of topic areas and formats that facilitators can read to learn about the complexities of lupus. *Facilitators need to:*

1. Submit a *Support Group Facilitator Application.*
2. Be interviewed and selected by the LFA, Indiana Chapter.
3. Attend LFA Support Group Facilitator Training. Thereafter, participation in “refresher” sessions is encouraged. Facilitators should attend at least one of the semi-annual facilitator sharing sessions each year.
4. Sign the *Support Group Facilitator Agreement.*
5. Understand and be compliant with *LFA Support Group Policies* and *LFA Support Group Guidelines.* (See Appendix of Lupus Facilitator Training Manual.)
6. Commit to a one-year term of service as a facilitator.
7. Actively seek a trained co-facilitator for the support group.
8. Stay in close contact with the LFA or Chapter, as required.

A support group needs a facilitator who has a different role than support group members. A facilitator’s job is to be aware of how group members are working together to assure that the group can accomplish its goals. An effective facilitator guides group interaction according to guidelines set forth in the facilitator’s training manual and balances individual needs with group needs. The support group facilitator is responsible for guiding and protecting the support group process.

Support groups will meet 9-12 meetings per year. Support group meetings typically are scheduled for 1-2 hours.

Facilitators will be responsible for securing the location to hold support group meetings. The Indiana Chapter of the LFA will promote the support groups to patients in our database, media, rheumatologists, etc.