



Partners in Policymaking®

A Leadership Training Program

for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with disabilities.

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® is a leadership training program designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. The Partners program was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities more than 30 years ago, and has been offered nationally and internationally. Partners teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services that you and/or your family use. Partners is accessible, informative, and empowering.

Since the first Partners class in Minnesota in 1987, a total of 954 self advocates and parents have graduated. Class 34 will bring that number to 980 Partners graduates.

PARTNERS is about systems change – creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities. It is based on the belief that the most effective and enduring public policy decisions are made by the people who need and use services in partnership with elected officials and other policymakers. It is about becoming confident in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise one brings to the program.

Participation in PARTNERS requires:

- A commitment to attend all eight weekend sessions
- An interest in learning and practicing new skills in a comfortable and safe environment
- A desire to build and strengthen a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences
- A willingness to learn from national and state experts who share our vision and values.

Topics to be addressed through a variety of informative and interactive sessions include:

September — Friday & Saturday

History of Disabilities
History of the Parent, Self Advocacy, and Independent Living Movements
How Partners Has Changed My Life!
Person Centered Thinking and Person Centered Planning

October — Friday & Saturday

Inclusive Education
Roundtables with MN Department of Education Staff
Civil Discourse

November — Friday & Saturday

County Role in Developmental Disabilities
Creating a Future Vision
Meetings with County Commissioners

January — Friday & Saturday

Supported Living and Customized Employment

February — Friday & Saturday

Community Organizing
Data Practices and Parliamentary Procedure

March — Sunday & Monday

Minnesota's Legislative Process
Mock Legislative Hearings
Governor's Open Appointment Process
Legislative Update
Visit to the State Capitol — Meeting with Legislators

April — Friday & Saturday

Introduction to and the Role of the Federal Government
Federal Issues Update
Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staff

May — Friday & Saturday

Beyond Partners - Moving Forward
Personal Growth
The Role of the Media
Graduation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Who is eligible to participate in this program?

This program is designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with disabilities.

What is the time commitment required for those who are chosen to participate in this program?

Participants are required to attend all eight weekend sessions (September through May with no session in December). The sessions run from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Day One and from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Day Two. (Note: Sessions are held on Friday and Saturday except in March when the session is held on Sunday and Monday.)

Where are the weekend sessions held?

All the sessions will be held in the Crown Plaza Aire in Bloomington, MN (3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425).

Is there a fee to attend this eight-month training?

There is no charge to attend. The cost for those selected to participate is covered in part by a grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Do I have to pay for my overnight accommodations and travel expenses?

Overnight accommodations are provided for those who drive a distance to attend. Class members are matched and housed in double occupancy rooms. Mileage reimbursement is also available to class members. Refreshment breaks, two lunches, and one dinner are provided during each weekend session.

Is there financial assistance available to help pay for respite/child care or personal care attendants?

While the Partners program does not provide onsite services, a reimbursement allowance is provided for those needing assistance.

Is there work to be done between monthly sessions?

After each session, a homework assignment that builds on and supports the topics addressed, must be completed by each class member and turned in at the following session.

Who does the training?

Speakers are national and state subject matter experts or practitioners.

How are class participants selected?

A Review Committee, which includes Partners graduates and representatives from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, will select participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 35 participants.

Partners in Policymaking is a program of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, financed in part by a grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, under provisions of P.L. 106-402

The Partners in Policymaking program is about achieving greater

- ★ Independence ★
- ★ Productivity ★
- ★ Self-Determination ★
- ★ Integration ★
- ★ Inclusion ★

Class 35 Dates

Friday & Saturday
September 15-16, 2017
Friday & Saturday
October 13-14, 2017
Friday & Saturday
November 17-18, 2017
Friday & Saturday
January 12-13, 2018
Friday & Saturday
February 16-17, 2018
Sunday & Monday
March 18-19, 2018
Friday & Saturday
April 13-14, 2018
Friday & Saturday
May 18-19, 2018

**To learn more about Partners visit:
www.partnersinpolicymaking.com**

**Want to apply?
Still have Questions?**

Contact us at:

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**Deadline to apply is
Monday, July 17, 2017**