



Partners in  
Policymaking®

# Class 42 Year XXXVIII

A program of the  
MINNESOTA  
GOVERNOR'S  
COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

Coordinated through  
**The Odyssey Group**

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership training program for parents and legal guardians of young children with disabilities and adults with disabilities.

Created in 1987 by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Partners program has been offered nationally and internationally.

Through informative and interactive sessions, the program 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.

Accessible, informative and empowering, Since its inception, almost 1,200 self-advocates and parents have graduated from Partners in Minnesota.



Independence  
Productivity  
Self-Determination  
Integration  
Inclusion



Application  
deadline:  
July 12, 2024.

## Eligibility

Parents and legal guardians of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with disabilities are eligible to participate in the Partners program.

## Requirements

To participate, the Partners program requires:

- a commitment to attend all eight 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



## Session Dates & Topics

### **September 20-21, 2024 (Friday & Saturday)**

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

### **October 18-19, 2024 (Friday & Saturday)**

- Inclusive Education
- Minnesota Department of Education Roundtable
- Civil Discourse

### **November 15-16, 2024 (Friday & Saturday)**

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

### **January 17-18, 2025 (Friday & Saturday)**

- Supported Living & Customized Employment
- Leadership Styles

### **February 14-15, 2025 (Friday & Saturday)**

- Community Organizing
- Data Practices & Parliamentary Procedure
- The Role of the Media

### **March 16-17, 2025 (Sunday & Monday)**

- Minnesota's Legislative Process
- Mock Legislative Hearings
- Governor's Open Appointment Process
- Legislative Update
- State Capitol Visit & Meeting with Legislators

### **April 18-19, 2025 (Friday & Saturday)**

- Federal Government Introduction & Role
- Federal Issues Update
- Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staff

### **May 16-17, 2025 (Friday & Saturday)**

- Beyond Partners: Moving Forward
- Personal Growth
- Graduation

## Time Commitment

Participants are required to attend all eight weekend sessions (September-May with no session in December). Sessions run from 11am-9pm on Day One and from 8:30am-3pm on Day Two. *(Sessions are held on Friday and Saturday except in March which is on Sunday and Monday.)*

## Location

Crowne Plaza Aire, 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425.

## Cost

There is no fee to attend. Program costs are covered in part by a federal appropriation from the Administration for Community Living to the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council). These funds are used to carry out the Partners program for those chosen for the class.

Overnight accommodations are provided at no cost for those who drive a distance to attend. Class members are matched and housed in double occupancy rooms. Mileage reimbursement is also available for class members.

Also covered are meals, speaker handouts, resource materials, publications, and interpreter or language translation services.

## Respite/Child Care & PCAs

Reimbursement up to a maximum dollar amount per weekend session is available for participants needing these services when another funding source does not pick up these expenses. *(NOTE: The Partners program does not provide onsite child care services. Family members are not permitted to stay at the hotel during the weekend training sessions unless a family member is serving as a personal assistant to a class member.)*

## Homework

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.

## Presenters

Speakers are national and state subject matter experts or practitioners.

## Selection Process

A Review Committee, which includes Partners graduates and representatives from the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, selects participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 35 participants. Selection decisions will be made by August 9, 2024.

Apply online at  
[www.PartnersInPolicymaking.com](http://www.PartnersInPolicymaking.com)

**Learn More**

[www.PartnersInPolicymaking.com](http://www.PartnersInPolicymaking.com)

**Application/Questions**

Contact Brenton Rice  
The Odyssey Group  
[Brenton@TOEvents.com](mailto:Brenton@TOEvents.com)  
651-242-6589

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*Coordinated through*

