



Partners in Policymaking®

A Leadership Training Program

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

**The Partners in Policymaking program
is about achieving greater**

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

in your community

**Year XXX, Class 34
September 2016 - May 2017**



PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® is a leadership training program designed for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. The program teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and others who make policy decisions about services used by you and your family.

In 1987, the PARTNERS program was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Since that first year, and including Class 33, over 900 individuals from throughout Minnesota have graduated from the program.

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 what you know and the skills you have, competent in using the knowledge and information you will receive, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise you bring 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 local experts who share our vision and values

For more information about applying for Partners Class 34, go to the GTS Educational Events website:
www.mngts.org/partnersinpolicymaking

Class 34 Partners In Policymaking

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

September 9-10, 2016 — Friday & Saturday

History of Disabilities

How Partners Has Changed My Life!

The Parent, Self-Advocacy and Independent Living Movements

October 21-22, 2016 — Friday & Saturday

Inclusive Education

Roundtables with Minnesota Department of Education Staff

Civil Discourse: Respect and Effectiveness in Difficult Meetings

November 18-19, 2016 — Friday & Saturday

Creating a Vision for the Future

County Role in Developmental Disabilities

Meetings with County Commissioners

January 6-7, 2017 — Friday & Saturday

Supported Living and Home of Your Own

Supported and Customized Employment

February 17-18, 2017 — Friday & Saturday

Community Organizing

Data Practices and Parliamentary Procedure

March 5-6, 2017 — Sunday & Monday

Minnesota's Legislative Process

Mock Legislative Hearings

Governor's Open Appointment Process

Legislative Update

Visit to the Minnesota State Capitol — Meetings with Legislators

April 7-8, 2016 — Friday & Saturday

Introduction to the Federal Government

Federal Issues Update

Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staff

May 12-13, 2017 — Friday & Saturday

Media Relations

Personal Growth

Graduation

Sessions Location:

Minneapolis Airport Marriott in Bloomington, Minnesota

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Who is eligible to participate in this program?

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

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

Participants are required to attend 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 March when the session is held on Sunday and Monday.)

Where are the weekend sessions held?

All the sessions are held at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott, 2020 East American Blvd., Bloomington (on Hwy. 494 and 24th Avenue).

Is there a fee to participate in this eight-month training?

There is no charge to participate. The cost for individuals selected to participate is covered in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 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 participants who drive a distance. You will be paired with another class member in a double occupancy room. Mileage reimbursement is also available. Refreshment breaks, two lunches and one dinner are provided during each weekend session.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *(continued)*

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

The Partners program does not provide onsite services. However, a reimbursement allowance (maximum of \$190/session) is provided for those needing financial assistance.

Is there work to be done between monthly sessions?

Yes, after each session, a homework assignment that builds on and supports the topics addressed must be completed and turned in at the following session.

Who does the training?

Speakers are local and national subject-matter experts or practitioners.

How do I apply for Class 34?

If interested in applying, please complete the application form included in this brochure or complete the online application form at www.mngts.org/partnersinpolicymaking.

Application deadline is: July 22, 2016.

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 40 members.

When will I know if I have been selected to participate in Class 34?

Applicants will be notified about the status of their application by **August 15, 2016.**

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



We invite you to invest your time and energies over an eight-month period to become a community leader and an agent of long term change.



Definition of “Developmental Disability”

According to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the term “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments;
- is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- is likely to continue indefinitely;
- results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - self care
 - receptive (understanding) and expressive language
 - learning
 - mobility (ability to move)
 - self-direction (motivation)
 - the capacity for independent living
 - economic self-sufficiency; and
- reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic services, individual supports, or other forms of assistance which are of a lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
- Infants and Young Children — an individual from birth to age nine, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more of the criteria described above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

Partners in Policymaking®

1987 - 2016

“Partners has given me the boost to believe my daughter has a better future, can go to college, have a job she likes, and a home of her choosing. Partners has given me the boost to believe I can do advocacy work.”



Sharing stories about memorable IEP meetings



Roleplaying successful meetings

“People with disabilities need to work together. Discrimination is discrimination & working together, we can accomplish more. Learning how much common ground we have with one another has given me a better sense of belonging & a feeling that I’m not alone.”



Meetings with County Commissioners are a highlight

“After completing Partners, I believe passionately that it is my civic responsibility to work with legislators on a regular basis to effect change that encourages people to value the talents & skills of people with disabilities. One person can make effective & lasting change.”



2233 University Avenue W., Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55114
www.mngts.org

Return Services Requested