



Partners in Policymaking®

A Leadership Training Program

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

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® is a leadership training program designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with 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 people with disabilities and their families.

In 1987, the PARTNERS program was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Since that first year 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 yourself, competent in 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
- practice new skills in a comfortable and safe environment
- build a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences
- learn from national and local 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
How Partners Has Changed My Life!
The Parent, Self-Advocacy and Independent Living Movements
Fanning the Creative Spirit

October — Friday & Saturday

Inclusive Education
Roundtables with MN Department of Education Staff
Navigating Difficult Meetings

November — Friday & Saturday

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

January — Friday & Saturday

Supported Living and Home of Your Own
Supported 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

April — Friday & Saturday

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

May — Friday & Saturday

Media Relations and Personal Growth
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 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.

Where are the weekend sessions held?

All the sessions will be held in the Marriott Airport Hotel in Bloomington.

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 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 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 on-site 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 local and national subject matter experts or practitioners.

How are class participants selected?

A Review Committee, which includes Partners graduates and representatives from the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, will select participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 40 members.

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.

The Partners in Policymaking program is about achieving greater

★ **Independence** ★
★ **Productivity** ★
★ **Self Determination** ★
★ **Integration** ★
★ **Inclusion** ★
in your community

Class 34 Dates

Classes are Friday and Saturday each month except for March:

September 9-10, 2016

October 21-22, 2016

November 18-19, 2016

January 6-7, 2017

February 17-18, 2017

March 5-6, 2017

April 7-8, 2017

May 12-13, 2017

To learn more about Partners visit:

<http://mn.gov/mnddc/pipm/>

To obtain more information about applying for Partners Class 34, contact us at:

GTS Educational Events

www.mngts.org/partnersinpolicymaking/

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