



**Illinois Partners
in Policymaking®**

A Leadership Training Program

For parents of school age children with developmental disabilities and adults with developmental disabilities.



The Partners in Policymaking program is about achieving greater:
Independence • Productivity • Self-Determination • Integration • Inclusion

HIGH IMPACT
MISSION-BASED CONSULTING AND TRAINING

Class 3
September 2019 - May 2020

**“Never doubt that
a small group
of thoughtful,
committed citizens
can change the world;
indeed, it’s the only
thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead**

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® is a leadership training program designed for parents of school age 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 since 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 your family use. Partners is accessible, informative and empowering. The graduates of Partners often become members of boards, councils, task forces and advisory committees; some run for elected office.

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, and to complete monthly Home-work and a Personal Advocacy Project
- 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

**For more information about applying
for Partners visit: icdd.illinois.gov**

Partners in Policymaking

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

September 20-21, 2019

- History of Disabilities and Services
- History of Parent, Self-Advocacy, and Independent Living Movements
- How Partners Has Changed my Life; A Graduate's Perspective

October 18-19, 2019

- Inclusive Education and Lifelong Learning
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS)

November 22-23, 2019

- Case management/Service Coordination & Self-Direction
- Person Centered Thinking and Person-Centered Planning
- PUNS and the Waiting List; The Ligas Case & Future Implications
- Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers and other HCBS Supports
- CMS & "the Most Integrated Setting" rule; Transition Plan for Illinois

January 24-25, 2020

- Supported Living, Housing and Home of Your Own
- Employment First, Supported, Customized and Self-Employment

February 28-29, 2020

- Community Organizing and Effective Skills for Systems Change

March 30-31, 2020

- Illinois Legislative Process and Legislative Advocacy
- Visit to and Tour of the State Capitol
- Governor's Appointment Process
- Legislative Updates; Meetings with Legislators

April 24-25, 2020

- Introduction to and the Role of the Federal Government
- Current Issues in Congress
- Creating a Shared Vision; 2030 and Beyond
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance
- IL ABLE ACT

May 29-30, 2020

- Beyond Partners - Moving Forward
- Personal Growth
- Serving on Boards; Parliamentary Procedure
- The Role of the Media, Including the Internet and Social Media
- **GRADUATION!**

Partners in Policymaking is a program of the Illinois 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, a grant from Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities to HIGH IMPACT Mission-based Consulting & Training, Allan I. Bergman, President & CEO





Frequently Asked Questions About Partners In Policymaking

Who is eligible to participate in this program?

This program is designed for parents of school age children with developmental disabilities and for adults with developmental disabilities. Please see Federal Definition of a Person with a Developmental Disability (page 5).

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. The sessions run from 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM on Day One and from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM on Day Two.

(Note: Sessions are held on Friday and Saturday except in March when the session is held on Monday and Tuesday)

Where are the weekend sessions held?

All sessions will be held at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Normal, IL., 200 Broadway Avenue, Normal, IL 61761, except for the March session will be at the State House Inn in Springfield, Illinois.

Is there a fee to attend the 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 Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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

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



Is there financial assistance available to help for Respite/Child Care, a Personal Assistant or a Personal Support Worker?

The Partners program does not provide onsite services. However, a reimbursement allowance is provided for participants needing financial assistance. It is up to participants to make arrangements for their own needed services. It is our priority to make a welcoming and accommodating atmosphere.

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 & turned in at the following session. Additionally, you must work on and complete an advocacy project to graduate.

Who does the training?

Speakers are national and state subject matter experts or practitioners.

How do I apply?

Complete the application form included with this brochure or complete the online application form at icdd.illinois.gov. The application deadline is **July 10, 2019 by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time**.

How are class participants selected?

A Review Committee, which includes Partners' graduates, representatives from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Alliance and staff from High Impact Mission-Based Consulting and Training, will select participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 30 participants.

Applicants will be notified about status of their application **by August 12, 2019**.

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



Federal Definition of a Person with a Developmental Disability:

The term “developmental disability” is defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as a severe, chronic disability of an individual from birth that:

1. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and
5. Reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individual supports or other forms of assistance that are of a lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
6. When applied to infants and young children, individuals from birth to age nine, inclusive, with a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions may be considered to have a developmental disability if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting three or more of those criteria later in life.

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