



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Ready At Five

LOCATION: Statewide

FUNDING: \$14,968

GOALS

Council Goal: People with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to lead the lives they want and transform communities.

Council Objective: Increase knowledge and skills of people with developmental disabilities and families through education and training.

Goals of Initiative: Parents of children with disabilities will take a more active role in making community-level changes.

OVERVIEW

Ready At Five improves the practice and quality of early childhood education in Maryland so that every child has the foundational skills needed for success in school, career, and life. They do this by providing information, resources, and data-driven solutions for educators, parents, and communities. Ready At Five has worked with experts on parent leadership to develop Parent Leadership Learning Parties (PLLs) that provide parents and caregivers with important leadership and advocacy skills to promote civic engagement. This project will allow Ready At Five to expand its family engagement efforts by funding eight PLLs statewide designed specifically to include parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities and delays. At the conclusion of these PLLs, it is anticipated that approximately 80 parents/caregivers of children with and without disabilities who participate will take a more active role in making community-level changes.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Hold eight PLLs for 10-15 families and caregivers of both children with and without disabilities. PLLs will be in jurisdictions with at least 10% of students with disabilities.
- Provide technical assistance/training to 30 facilitators who will conduct the PLLs.
- Assess parental confidence and increased knowledge/skills via self-evaluations.

OUTCOMES

- Increase advocacy knowledge and skills of parents of children with developmental disabilities throughout Maryland.