



ADVOCACY:

Partners in Policymaking®

LOCATION: statewide

| FUNDING: \$100,000; \$57,924 match

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: To train individuals with developmental disabilities and families of people with developmental disabilities to become effective advocates for long-term change in policies affecting their lives and the lives of others in meaningful ways.

OVERVIEW

Partners in Policymaking® was developed by the Minnesota DD Council in 1987 and is a proven leadership development program for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The purpose of this initiative is to train individuals with developmental disabilities and families of people with developmental disabilities to become effective advocates for long-term change in policies affecting their lives and lives of others in meaningful ways.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Utilize extensive statewide Arc chapter network and supporting organizations to recruit a diverse group of 30; conduct 8 training sessions with experts; provide an additional 16 hours of online work and 15 hours of group project work; provide “Learning Facilitators” for Partners who need support.

OUTCOMES

- An increase in the number of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members from diverse backgrounds who can assume advocacy and leadership roles at state and local levels; increase in number of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members serving on boards, committees, councils, and commissions; a network of Partners graduates connected for mutual support; an increase in the number of leaders with developmental disabilities and family members actively advocating for positive change at local and/or state levels.