



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Partners in Policymaking® The Arc Maryland

LOCATION: Statewide**FUNDING:** \$199,712; \$69,582 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 the Initiative: To train individuals with developmental disabilities and families of people with developmental disabilities to become effective advocates for long-term change affecting their lives and the lives of others in meaningful ways.

OVERVIEW

Partners in Policymaking® (Partners) program trains individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to become effective advocates for long-term change. Partners is in the second and third year of the Maryland program, and teaches best practices and competencies to the next generation of leaders. Topics include: History of the Disability Movement, Self-Advocacy, Inclusive Education, Assistive Technology, Legislative Process, and Advocacy. The first training cohort begins in September 2019, and the second training cohort begins in September 2020.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Recruit a diverse group of at least 30 participants (5-10 people with developmental disabilities (DD) and 15-20 family members of people with DD) for each training cohort.
- Conduct 9 training sessions per cohort with experts.
- Provide an additional 16 hours of online work and 15 hours of group project work.
- Help graduates implement what they learn.

OUTCOMES

- A network of Partners graduates connected for mutual support.
- An increase in individuals with DD and family members from diverse backgrounds who can assume advocacy and leadership roles at the state and local levels.
- Increase in individuals with DD and family members serving on boards, committees, and commissions.
- Increase in leaders with DD and family members actively advocating for change at the state and local level.