



LEADers Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

Location: Western MD and Eastern Shore **Funding:** \$75,000 | \$25,000 match

GOAL

Train and support parents of children with developmental disabilities in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore to be strong advocates and leaders.

SUMMARY

Western Maryland: Alleghany, Garrett, and Washington counties

This project will train parents to increase their understanding of leadership and how they can bring about change in their communities. Parents' Place of Maryland (PPMD) will make some changes to their regular LEADers training for this project.

Eastern Shore

PPMD already trained parents on the Eastern Shore using a grant from the Council. They used their LEADers training program. This project will build on those activities. PPMD will support LEADers graduates to build relationships and put what they learned into action. This will include developing leaders in Spanish speaking and Haitian communities.

ACTIVITIES

- Make changes to the regular LEADers training program.
- Form an advisory team to:
 - share information,
 - provide feedback on the program, and
 - support new LEADers.

- Work with other agencies to find parents of children with developmental disabilities in Western Maryland for the trainings.
- Provide one-day trainings in each Western Maryland county: Alleghany, Garrett, and Washington. 25 or more parents will be trained.
- Help parents in Western Maryland use what they learned to advocate on issues that are important to them. A Leadership Coach will mentor, coach, and support them.
- Carry out regional activities on the Eastern Shore that help LEADers graduates get involved in leadership opportunities. The focus will be reaching more families in Spanish speaking and Haitian communities.

OUTCOMES

- Parents of children with developmental disabilities in Western Maryland better understand the special education system. As a result, they are more involved in issues that affect their children.
- Parents have more advocacy and leadership skills.
- More parents in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore participate in leadership activities.
- More Spanish speaking and Haitian parents advocate for themselves and others.