

FUNDED PROJECT

FY 2020-2021



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

## **Partners in Policymaking®** *The Arc Maryland*

**Location:** Statewide

**Funding:** \$199,712 | \$69,582 match

### **GOAL**

Train people with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities to be strong advocates and leaders.

### **SUMMARY**

Partners in Policymaking® (Partners) is a leadership developmental program designed for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Partners program is well-known and respected throughout the country. There is a Partners program in many states. The program prepares participants to advocate for what they need in their own lives. It also prepares them to be leaders that bring about change that helps others.

The Partners program is a series of nine sessions and other learning activities. Participants learn from experts. These are people who have a lot of knowledge and experience in disabilities. Topics include: history of the disability movement, self-advocacy, inclusive education, assistive technology, legislative process, and advocacy.

Partners graduates are prepared and supported to take action after they graduate. They support and learn from each other to bring about change.

### **ACTIVITIES**

The Arc Maryland will hold two classes of Partners in Policymaking. For each class:

- Recruit at least 30 participants. This includes 5-10 people with developmental disabilities and 15-20 family members of people with developmental disabilities.

They will:

- have different types of disabilities or family members with different types of disabilities,
- be from different backgrounds, and
- come from all over Maryland.
- Conduct 9 training sessions with experts.
- Provide an additional 16 hours of online work and 15 hours of group project work.
- Help graduates put what they learn into action.

## **OUTCOMES**

- A network of Partners graduates that are connected and supporting each other.
- More people with developmental disabilities and family members advocating and leading at the state and local levels.
- More people with developmental disabilities and family members serving on boards and committees.
- Improvements in policies, programs, and services.