



Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

Location: Statewide

Funding: \$10,000 | \$3,333 match

GOAL

Help family members be effective members of Special Education Citizens Advisory Committees and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils in Maryland.

- Special Education Citizens Advisory Committees give advice to county school systems about the needs of students with disabilities. They are called SECACs.
- Local Interagency Coordinating Councils give advice to their counties about early intervention services. These are provided to children under 5 who have developmental disabilities or delays. Local Interagency Coordinating Councils are called LICCs.

SUMMARY

This project will train family members of people with disabilities who are:

- Currently members of SECACs and LICCs in Maryland, or
- Joining SECACs and LICCs in Maryland as new members.

These groups play an important role in improving services and resources for children with disabilities. Family members should participate actively on these groups and be strong advocates. They need information and leadership skills to do this.

Parents' Place of Maryland (PPMD) will use a leadership training called "Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families." PPMD helped develop this in Wisconsin to increase family participation on groups that make decisions.

ACTIVITIES

- Make changes to the training to focus on Maryland.
- Recruit 12-15 family members to be trained.
- Provide 5 regional trainings.
- Evaluate the outcomes of the training. This will look at whether the people trained are using what they learned to contribute to SECACs and LICCs.

OUTCOMES

Family members on SECACs and LICCs in Maryland will increase their:

- knowledge,
- leadership skills, and
- confidence.

As a result:

- They will be effective members and leaders of SECACs and LICCs.
- More children will get the early intervention and special education services they need.