



Partners in Policymaking®

The Arc Maryland

Location: Statewide

Funding: \$100,000 | \$48,211 match

GOAL

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

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 12 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

- Recruit 30-35 participants for the Partners program. At least 40% of participants (with a goal of 50%) will have developmental disabilities. The people recruited for the program 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 12 training sessions to increase participants' knowledge and skills. The sessions will be a mixture of virtual and in-person sessions.
- Help graduates put what they learn into action.
- Conduct "Empowering Partners" with People on the Go of Maryland. Empowering Partners will support a network of self-advocacy groups made up of people with developmental disabilities. These self-advocacy groups are in different parts of Maryland. People with developmental disabilities lead these groups.

OUTCOMES

- A network of Partners graduates that support one another.
- More people with developmental disabilities and family members advocate at the state and local levels.
- Policies, programs, and services are improved.
- More people with developmental disabilities use their advocacy training to mentor other people with developmental disabilities.