



Partners in Policymaking®

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership and advocacy training program that teaches self-advocates and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities to be community leaders.

Based on the national model developed by the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, the overall goal of Partners is to develop productive relationships between people who need and use services and those in a position to make policy and law. Participants hear presentations about current issues and state-of-the-art practices from national leaders in the field of developmental disabilities.

PARTNERS is about systems change – creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values. It is also based on the belief that the most effective public policy decisions are made by people using services in partnership with policymakers. It is about becoming confident in yourself, competent in the knowledge and skills you learn, and comfortable sharing the life experiences and expertise you bring to the program.

Participation in Partners requires a commitment to:

- Attend all six sessions
- Practice your skills
- Build a network of people with diverse backgrounds and life experiences
- Learn from national and local experts who share our visions and values.

Topics to be addressed

Session 1: Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to get the most out of Partners in Policymaking • Inclusion NOW • What is FDDC? • History of Disability Movements, Perceptions of Individuals with Disabilities, • People First • Creating a Vision for 2025 	Session 2: Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Inclusion • Inclusive Education and Beyond • People First Language • Universal Design for Learning/Assistive Technology • Negotiation Skills and Legal Rights • IEP Strategies/ Role Playing
Session 3: Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Preparation • Employment for All 	Session 4: Self Advocacy & Community Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Living • Self Determination/Circles of Support
Session 5: Legislative Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Systems Change • Communicating with Policymakers • Legislative Priorities and Issues to Watch 	Session 6: Community Organizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Organizing • Media Relations • Leadership Training • Closing Q & A • Graduation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to participate in this program?

This program is designed for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and for adults with developmental disabilities. Other family members who have an integral role in the support of an individual with developmental disabilities may also apply.

What is the time commitment required of participants accepted into the program?

Participants must attend all six sessions (August through January). The sessions typically run from 12:30 pm to 9:00 pm on Day One and 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on Day Two.

Is there a fee to participate in the program?

No, there is no fee to participate. The cost is covered by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Do I have to pay for hotel or travel expenses?

Overnight accommodations will be provided to those who travel a distance to attend. Class members are matched and housed in double occupancy hotel rooms. Meals are provided.

Is there assistance for respite/child care or personal care attendants?

The Partners program does not provide on-site services, but a reimbursement allowance is provided for those needing assistance.

Is there work to be done between monthly sessions?

There is homework assigned each session that builds upon and supports the topics discussed in class.

Who does the training?

Speakers are local and national experts.

How are the participants selected?

A review committee made up of FDDC Council members and Partners graduates will select participants based on several criteria.

The Partners in Policymaking program is about achieving greater

- ★ Independence ★
- ★ Productivity ★
- ★ Self-Determination ★
- ★ Inclusion ★

...In your community.

What do participants gain?

- ✓ Information
- ✓ Inspiration
- ✓ A powerful network of new friends, supporters, resources, and mentors

2015 Application Deadline June 15, 2015

To learn more about Partners or submit an application, visit www.fddc.org or contact:

Safee Broxton
Self-Advocacy Leadership Program
Manager
Florida DD Council
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32301
SafeeB@fddc.org
1-800-580-7801
1-888-488-8633 TDD
850-922-6702 Fax



Partners in Policymaking Application for Participation

2015-2016 CLASS SCHEDULE

August 7-8, 2015
October 9-10, 2015
December 3-4, 2015

September 18-19, 2015
November 6-7, 2015
January 8-9, 2016

All sessions are held Friday and Saturday in Orlando, Florida.

PLEASE NOTE: The information requested on this application is for the purpose of selecting individuals who meet the criteria for participation in the Partners in Policymaking program. The list of names and addresses of Partners graduates that is prepared for each Partners class is taken from applications and considered public data under Florida's Sunshine Law. This list may be requested and will be released upon request.

To apply, send application to: Partners in Policymaking
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32301
[or apply online at: www.fddc.org/](http://www.fddc.org/)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 15, 2015

(PRINT IN INK)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone # (_____) _____ Work Phone # (_____) _____

Cell Phone # (_____) _____ Email _____

1. Are you a person with a disability? Yes No (If no, proceed to Question 2.)

a. If so, please specify your disability and provide information about how it affects your daily life:

b. What kinds of support services or technology services/devices do you use or do you receive?

2. Are you a parent of a child with a developmental disability? Yes No

a. If so, what services do you, your family or your son/daughter receive from the county where you live?

b. Check one in each column for each child with a developmental disability:

<u>Child#1</u>		<u>Child#2</u>		<u>Child#3</u>	
Age	Disability	Age	Disability	Age	Disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth - 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical	<input type="checkbox"/> Birth - 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical	<input type="checkbox"/> Birth - 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ Behavioral	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ Behavioral	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional/ Behavioral
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensory	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensory	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensory
<input type="checkbox"/> 14+	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 14+	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 14+	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

c. Please specify your child's disability and provide information about how it affects his/her daily life and that of your family. _____

d. Please provide some specific information on how this diagnosis or disability affects your access to necessary or needed services. _____

e. Is your son/daughter receiving special education services? YES NO

If yes, describe those services. _____

3. Identify one or two specific problems or issues that are of greatest concern to you. _____

4. Weekend sessions typically begin with check-in on the first day at 12:30 p.m. and end on the second day at 3:00 p.m.

a. Attendance is required at each weekend session. Will you make a time commitment of two days, one weekend a month (June through November), for six months? YES NO
Please place the session dates on your calendar at this time.

b. If you are employed, have you talked with your employer about session attendance and made necessary arrangements so you can attend all weekend sessions? YES NO

c. Do you understand that you will be attending classes in Orlando? YES NO

5. If you have a disability, what accommodations do you need to help you actively participate in the weekend sessions (such as wheelchair access or larger print)?

6. Do you require interpreter services (such as signing or language translation)? YES NO

If yes, please specify: _____

7. If you are a parent, will you be using respite/child care services, so you can participate in the Partners program?

YES NO

If you are a person with a disability, will you be using personal care attendant services during the weekend sessions?

YES NO

PLEASE NOTE: The Partners program **does not** provide on-site respite/child care or personal care attendant services, but reimbursement for these costs (up to a maximum of \$240/weekend) will be provided if no other source of funds are available to you.

8. Are you currently a member of, do volunteer work for, or are involved with an advocacy organization?

YES NO If yes, what is the name of the organization(s) and what role(s) do you play?

9. Please tell us about yourself/your family.

a. If you are working, tell us about your job and the kind of work you do:

b. If in school, tell us about your field of study or the types of classes you are taking:

c. In what type of community/volunteer activities are you involved:

d. What are some of your personal interests:

e. Please share any life experiences that have been special joys or challenges for you, your child or your family: _____

10. Tell us why you want to participate in the Partners in Policymaking program.

11. How did you learn about the Partners in Policymaking Program?

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 2015

Send complete application to:

Partners in Policymaking
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**To learn more about the Partners in
Policymaking program, contact:**

**Safee Broxton,
Self Advocacy and Leadership
Program Manager
(850) 488-4180
(800) 580-7801
(888) 488-8633 (TDD)**

SafeeB@fddc.org