



2017-2018 WISCONSIN PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING APPLICATION PACKET



WISCONSIN
PARTNERS IN
POLICYMAKING

A project of the Wisconsin Board for People
with Developmental Disabilities



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Get the Training You Need to Become a Leader!

Applications are due at noon on Friday, September 1, 2017.



Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking is a six-session advocacy and systems change training program designed to develop a group of future leaders across the state who are able to work with legislators and communities on policies and initiatives that will support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life.

Who can participate?

Partners in Policymaking is designed for adults with developmental disabilities, adult siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities, and parents/primary caregivers of children and youth with developmental disabilities ages birth to 21.

Partners is an initiative of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). Nationwide, nearly 15,000 graduates are part of a growing network of community leaders and decision-makers serving on policymaking committees, commissions, and boards at local, state, and national levels.

What is expected of participants?

Partners are expected to make a commitment to:

1. Attend all two-day sessions and complete all homework assignments. Attendance at all sessions is required, from Friday at 1 p.m. to Saturday at 4 p.m. Only individuals selected to participate in the program will be able to attend (with supports as needed). Aside from attendant care, additional family members do not attend sessions and should not plan on staying at the hotel with participants. Dates for the 2016/2017 sessions are:

- October 27-28, 2017
- December 1 & 2, 2017
- January 26 & 27, 2018
- March 2 & 3, 2018
- April 6 & 7, 2018
- May 11th & 12th, 2018

“Partners taught me that it’s possible to start something and make things happen in my community.”

- Partners Graduate

2. Participate in networking, advocacy activities, interviews, readings (which are offered in alternative formats), and other projects.
3. Actively practice and report on new skills developed in Partners, including activities accomplished between sessions (e.g. meeting with a legislator). Leave Partners with a written plan to continue specific systems change work in a chosen area that aligns with Partners Core Values.
4. It is your responsibility to arrange for any 1-on-1 support needed to participate, including arranging any training needed for caregivers to meet your support needs. Remember: support people are not Partners participants and should limit their role during the program to the direct supports of participants.

Core Values

Participants agree to support core values laid out in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. **Please affirm that you support each value before applying for Partners.**

- Disability is a natural part of the human experience and does not diminish people’s rights to live independently, exert control over their lives and fully participate in and contribute to their communities.
- People with disabilities must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes the right to be free of abuse and neglect, and the right to People First language.
- People with disabilities are entitled to the First Amendment right to free speech. The opportunity and ability to communicate, with assistance as needed, must be available to everyone.
- People with disabilities have the right to advocate for themselves on every level of the system, from individual service planning to the federal and state budget.
- Self-determination is essential to full citizenship. Everyone should have autonomy and a range of informed choices in every aspect of their lives. This includes the choice to live where you want, with appropriate supports.
- People with disabilities must be able to enjoy the full mobility and accessibility that enables active participation in community life.
- People with disabilities need real friendships with a variety of friends, not just paid service workers.
- Schools and communities are stronger when they are inclusive.
- Every person with a disability deserves the right to pursue gainful employment in the community, with fair market wages, and benefits, and the necessary supports to be successful.



What is the cost?

Partners is funded by BPDD, and BPDD covers costs associated with the training, lodging, meals, and materials.

“It has been the best decision I have made as a parent... it absolutely changed my life.”

- Partners Graduate

Who can apply?

Individuals who are highly motivated to create more inclusive communities AND are:

- Parents or primary caregivers of children under the age of 21 who have developmental disabilities
- Adults with developmental disabilities
- Siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities
- We are seeking cultural and geographic diversity within the guidelines above. The selection of participants is made by a team of parents, self-advocates, and professionals.

What are some of the topics covered in Partners?

- History of the disability rights movement
- Self-determination, self-advocacy, and person-centered planning
- Disability policy and systems change
- Community engagement and grassroots advocacy
- School inclusion, Integrated employment, community supported living.

More information:

If you have questions or would like more information about the Partners in Policymaking program, please contact Beth Swedeen at beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-1166. **Apply by September 1, 2017.**



Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

County:

E-mail:

Home Phone:

Daytime Phone:

Female **Male**

I am a parent/caregiver/sibling of a child with a disability. (If you have more than one family member with a disability please answer for each child.)

Son/daughter ages:

Does your child live at home? Yes No

I have a developmental disability.

Please answer the following questions. Feel free to attach additional sheets of paper if necessary.

1. Please tell us a little about yourself and your family.

2. Why do you want to participate in Partners in Policymaking?

8. How do you hope to use your new information and skills after completing this training program?

9. Looking at the Core Values, which are the most important to you and why?

10. Please provide a reference of someone who can speak about your experience as a disability advocate.

Name:

Address:

City:

Phone:

E-mail:

11. Were you referred by a graduate of a previous Partners in Policymaking class? If so, who referred you?

If selected to participate in Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking, I am committing to:
(please check all)

- Attend ALL two-day sessions in Madison (see page 1 for session dates)
- Complete all homework assignments, including community networking, activities, and readings (some readings will be available in alternative formats)
- Make arrangements with my employer and family, as needed, to fully participate
- Work on a project that will result in systems change to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin
- Support the Core Values of the DD Act as outlined in this application packet)
- Be prepared to invest time and energy into advocacy between each session

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Materials must be submitted by September 1, 2017. Application materials can be submitted via email, fax or regular mail. Applicants will be notified of their selection by October 6, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Beth Swedeen at beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-1166.

- To submit via **email**, email your application materials to beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov
- To submit via **fax**, fax your application materials to (608) 267-3906.
- To submit via **regular mail**, mail your application materials to:

Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking
c/o WI-BPDD
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