

Partners in Policymaking: Creating the Next Generation of Leaders

Partners in Policymaking is a six-session advocacy program for people with developmental disabilities and family members to become seasoned leaders across the state. Graduates work to improve policies and practices that lead to better lives for people with disabilities by improving the quality of supports, developing cost efficiencies, and learning how to use community supports to maximize independence.



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I now have the confidence that my voice matters and that others have similar philosophies as me.

- Partners Graduate

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Partners gets results:

- More than 200 graduates and a network of community leaders and decision-makers serving on policymaking committees, commissions, and boards at local, state and national levels.
- More than 95% of graduates say they will be a stronger advocate and be more actively involved in issues that affect people with disabilities.
- Graduates created “Save IRIS,” a non-partisan grassroots coalition dedicated to preserving and promoting self-direction in Wisconsin.
- 92% of graduates said they would be more connected with their legislator.
- Four Partner graduates have run for school boards and two were elected.
- When asked how they will use their new skills after Partners, graduates said:
 - “I am going to run for office & help others advocate for themselves.”
 - “I plan to keep reaching out to legislators to affect change. I also hope to run for office to work for change from the inside.”

