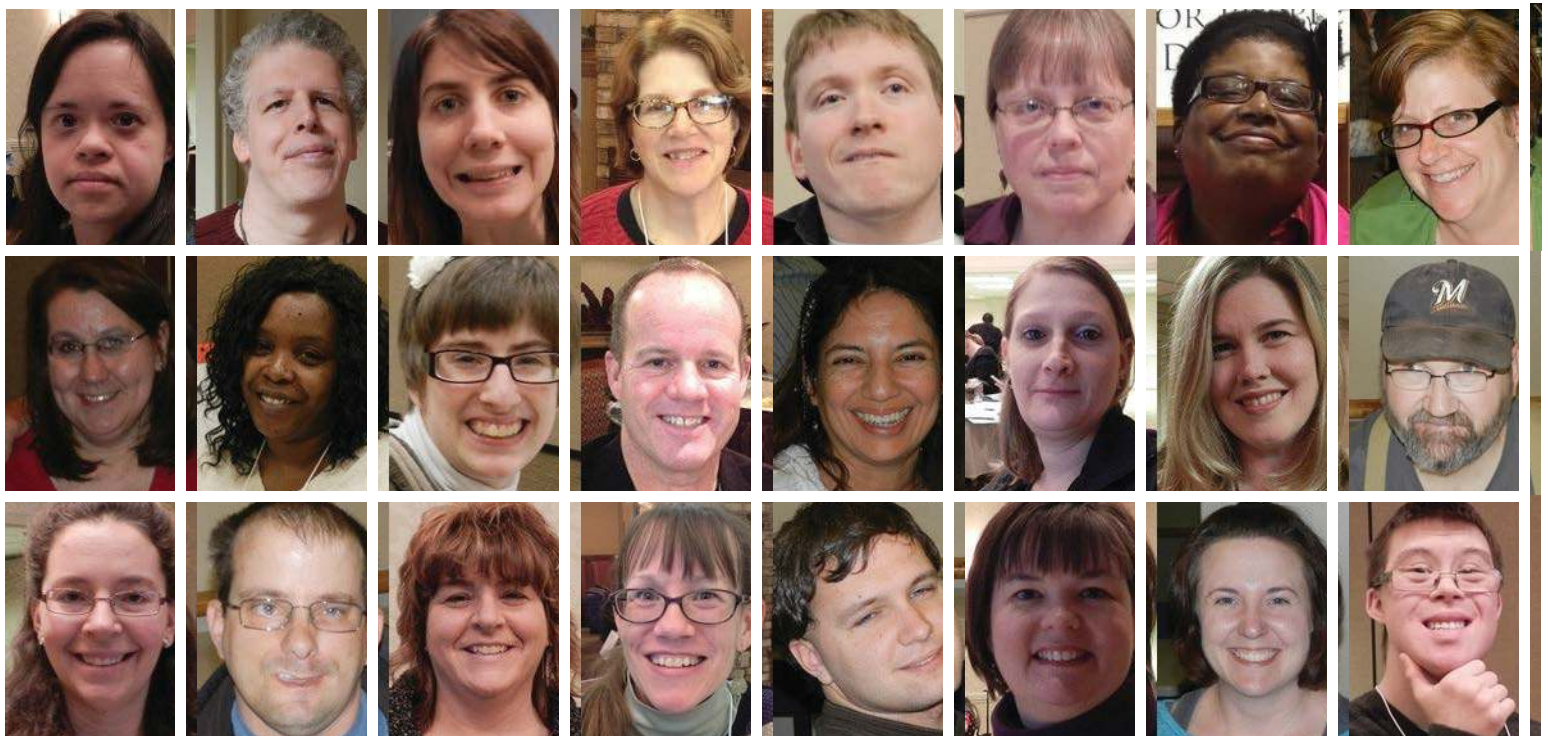




2018-2019 Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking Application Packet



WISCONSIN
PARTNERS IN
POLICYMAKING
A project of the Wisconsin Board for People
with Developmental Disabilities

A PROJECT OF
**Wisconsin
BPDD**
WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Get the Training You Need to Become a Leader!

Applications are due at noon on Saturday, September 1, 2018.



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 27,000 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 3 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 2018/2019 sessions are:

- October 26 & 27, 2018
- November 30 & December 1, 2018
- January 25 & 26, 2019
- March 1 & 2, 2019
- April 5 & 6, 2019
- May 17 & 18, 2019

“Partners educated me regarding issues affecting people with disabilities and how I can have an impact on public policy.”

- Partners Graduate

2. Participate in networking, advocacy activities, interviews, readings (some available in alternative formats), and other projects.
3. Develop and implement a project that results in systems change that will improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families.
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, exercise control over their lives and fully participate in and contribute to their communities.
- People with disabilities are people first and must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes the right to be free of abuse and neglect.
- People with disabilities are entitled to the right to free speech. The 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 services to the state budget to federal laws that affect their lives.
- Self-determination is essential to full citizenship. People with disabilities must have the freedom to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives and receive 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 work in the community at competitive wages, with benefits and the supports necessary to be successful.



What is the cost?

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

“It has been such a wonderful and empowering experience... 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 Jenny Neugart at jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-7707. ***Apply by September 1, 2018.***



APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

County:

E-mail:

Home Phone:

Cell 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?

3. What would you most like to change that would improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin?
4. How could participating in Partners in Policymaking help you achieve the goal you described above?
5. Please describe your experience in advocating for yourself, your child, or others with developmental disabilities?
6. What advocacy or disability related organizations do you participate in? What is your role?
7. What kind of work/school are you involved in? (Include volunteer and other leadership positions, etc., not just paid work)

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:

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, 2018. Application materials can be submitted via email, fax or regular mail. Applicants will be notified of their selection by October 6, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Jenny Neugart at jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-7707.

- To submit via **email**, email your application materials to jennifer.neugart@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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