Connecticut
Partners in
Policymaking 2021
A Leadership Training Program

Information, Training Schedule, and Application

APPLY TODAY!
Space is limited.

Deadline for Applications: Monday December 28, 2020

CT Council on Developmental Disabilities
Disability Rights Connecticut, Inc.
University of CT Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

“If you REALLY want to help yourselves and others with disabilities, you have GOT to become a Partner!” - Jim Ross, Partners Graduate, Class of 2015
I. What Is Partners in Policymaking?

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership training program that prepares adults with disabilities and family members of children with disabilities to be effective advocates at local, state, and national levels. The goal of Partners in Policymaking is to train leaders who can become active partners with those who make policy. **Partners graduates can change the future by influencing public policy today!**

The seven-month program is available in over 30 states. Graduates of past Partners in Policymaking training in Connecticut have become involved in key policy and advocacy roles in the state. They often become members of boards, councils, task forces and advisory committees. They are recognized as skilled and capable leaders in disability issues in their communities and in the state.

**Partners in Policymaking is about systems change: creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values with and about people with disabilities. Partners graduates often become life-long and long-term agents of change in the community.**

**IF YOU ARE READY TO LEAD SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CONNECTICUT THEN CONSIDER APPLYING TO PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING!**

During the 7 sessions, participants will hear from national and state subject matter experts and discuss disability related topics such as:

- The History of the Developmental Disabilities Movement; Lessons Learned and the Way Forward
- State Laws and Policies and Those Who Create Them
- Federal Laws and Policies and Those Who Create Them
- Inclusive Education and Lifelong Learning
- Employment
- Housing and Transportation
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Assistive Technology
- Independent Living
- Supporting Families

II. Partners Schedule and COVID 19 Restrictions

The Partners program is proceeding with plans for face to face training at the Sheraton Rocky Hill Hotel beginning in February 2021. However, with the unpredictability of COVID 19 restrictions in 2021, Partners has also developed alternative plans for training, **should the need arise.**
A. FACE TO FACE PARTNERS SCHEDULE: If health protocols allow, Partners classes will be held from 11 AM to 9 PM on Fridays and 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays. All training will be at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT. Partners in Policymaking 2021 classes are scheduled for the following weekends.

Session One: February 19-20
Session Two: March 19-20
Session Three: April 9-10
Session Four: May 14-15
Session Five: June 18-19
Session Six: August 6-7
Session Seven: September 17-18

B. ALTERNATE VIRTUAL TRAINING SCHEDULE: In the event that face to face training in the hotel is not allowable for some or all the sessions, we have developed a plan to provide virtual training via ZOOM. Since virtual learning on the computer is more difficult, we will be hosting these trainings over two consecutive weekends each month of training. If you are accepted into the CT Partners Class of 2021, please be aware of these potential additional dates. These sessions will be held on Friday’s from 1-4 PM and on Saturdays from 9-3 PM with breaks and a lunch break on Saturday. Sessions may begin via zoom and in later months shift to face to face if health protocol allows.

In the event we need to host all or some sessions via ZOOM, please be aware of these dates. Each Session via ZOOM will be over two weekends a month instead of one but will cover the same amount of time as a Face to Face Session.

Session One: February 19-20 and February 26-27
Session Two: March 19-20 and March 26-27
Session Three: April 9-10 and April 16-17
Session Four: May 14-15 and May 22-23
Session Five: June 18-19 and June 25-26
Session Six: August 6-7 and August 13-14
Session Seven: September 10-11 and September 18 (Graduation)

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL DATES, BOTH THE FACE TO FACE AND VIA ZOOM.
“Partners in Policymaking has given me the tools to not only advocate for my son, but also for people with disabilities in the community. When I started, I had a terrible fear of public speaking. I am now presenting in front of thousands of people at public events and advocating on levels I never knew was possible. I am taking with me an incredible amount of knowledge and resources I have learned over the past seven months.” - Heather Dierberger, Partners Graduate, Class of 2019.

III. Partners Training Requirements

A. All Sessions are Mandatory - The training consists of weekend training sessions either face to face training (one weekend per month) or the virtual zoom training (two weekends a month). Due to the unpredictability of our COVID 19 status, all applicants must be available for all these dates, both in person and via zoom. We will notify you of your acceptance in January and at that time will notify you of whether the training is in person or via zoom. Participants are required to attend ALL sessions.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL SESSIONS IS MANDATORY
Please do not apply if you do not feel that you will be able to attend all classes.

B. Homework, Three Minute Speech and Project - In addition to attending all sessions, participants are expected to arrive on time, complete all homework assignments and complete an advocacy project prior to graduation. Every month, participants will have homework and a three-minute presentation on an assigned topic. They will also be required to show progress on an individual project which will be selected from several topics/issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities in Connecticut. These projects must be completed prior to graduation from Partners in Policymaking.

Partners training is offered at no cost to participants.

- For face to face training, Partners will provide lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

- For face to face training, all hotel costs including overnight accommodations and meals will be paid by Connecticut Partners in Policymaking.

- Partners has limited funds to support transportation for face to face training.

- Accessibility accommodations will be provided.
IV. Who Should Apply for Partners?

Applicants should be:
• Individuals with disabilities.
• Parents and family members of individuals with disabilities.

Participants should be able to actively participate in training and discussion and complete an independent advocacy project. Participants should have access to a computer and reliable internet service. Most communication for this program will be done electronically. Thirty (30) participants will be chosen.

V. How to Apply for Partners

Complete the attached application and e-mail it no later than Monday December 28, 2020.

Laurie Cantwell, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator at ctpolicymaking@gmail.com

For questions and concerns you may call Laurie at: (800) 842-7303

Make A Difference…

Be A Leader…

Apply to Partners in Policymaking Today!
Partners in Policymaking 2021 Application
Return by Monday, December 28, 2020
Please complete both sides of this form and return to:
Laurie Cantwell, ctpolicymaking@gmail.com

Name: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Home Telephone: _______________ Cell Phone: _______________

E-Mail: ____________________________________________

_____ Male          _____ I am a person with a disability.

_____ Female        _____ I am a parent of a child with a disability

 _____ I am a family member of an individual with a disability

For funding purposes, we must indicate which of our participants or their family members have a developmental disability. The federal definition of developmental disability is at the end of this application. Please review the definition and indicate below whether you or your family member have a developmental disability. All individuals are eligible to apply. Your answer to this question will not impact your chance of being accepted into the program.

☐ I, or my family member meet the definition of a person with a developmental disability, as stated on page seven of this application.

☐ I, or my family member do not meet the definition of a person with a developmental disability as stated on page seven of this application.

1. Please tell us how disability impacts your life.

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you want to enroll in Partners in Policymaking? Is there one specific issue, area of concern or problem that made you want to apply to this program?

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________
3. Please describe what impact you want to make in the community and how you see yourself taking what you learn from Partners in Policymaking back to your community.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

4. What makes you an excellent candidate for this program? Include skills, knowledge, and abilities you would contribute to the class.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

5. What types of experiences have you had in advocating for people with disabilities? Include advocacy, civic organizations, or support groups you belong to. (*Membership in other organizations is not a requirement for your participation in this project.*)

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

6. Please tell us about yourself/your family.

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

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

   • If you are in school, tell us about the types of classes you are taking:

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

   • In what type of community/volunteer activities are you involved?

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


8. List one reference who is not a family member and who is able to discuss with us your experience in disability issues.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

****************************************************************************************************************************************

I have reviewed the description of Partners in Policymaking 2021 training:
• I agree to attend all the sessions as listed on the Partners in Policymaking 2021 brochure.
• I have access to a computer and reliable internet service.
• I will complete all homework assignments prior to each session.
• I will complete an advocacy project approved by my faculty advisor prior to graduation.
• I understand that failure to meet these requirements may result in dismissal from the training at any time.

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Return this form NO LATER THAN Monday, December 28, 2020
Laurie Cantwell, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator
ctpolicymaking@gmail.com
(800) 842-7303

Federal Definition of Developmental Disability

Under federal law, developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:
• Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
• Is manifested before the age of 22;
• Is likely to continue indefinitely;
• Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
  • Self-care
  • Receptive and expressive language
  • Learning
  • Mobility
  • Self-direction
  • Capacity for independent living
  • Economic self-sufficiency
• Reflects the individual’s need for services, supports or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.