

## **What is “Partners in Policymaking”?**

Partners in Policymaking is a program designed for individuals with developmental disabilities and parents/caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities. The program is based on a national model developed by the Minnesota Council on Developmental Disabilities. The goal is to develop productive partnerships between people who need services and those who are in a position to make policies and laws.

Graduates of the Partners program are in a better position to help change these policies and laws through the knowledge they gain in this program. They will have the opportunities to talk with professionals in the developmental disabilities field as well as become confident in their ability to connect with organizations and opportunities within their communities.

The Partners program provides information and the development of skills needed to tackle the battle of current issues, state-of-the-art approaches and best practices, and policymaking and legislative processes at local, state and national levels.

### **Who should apply?**

We are seeking a diverse group of highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities to participate. Please note translation into Spanish of the course materials and speakers will be provided as needed.

### **What is my role as a “Partner”?**

#### **Participants will be expected to:**

- Have access to a computer. This is necessary to complete workshops and e-learning courses.
- Commit to 128 total hours of curriculum/work. (This includes online and homework. If you cannot, please see information below on individual classes.)
- Attend eight one-day sessions between January and August 2020 (See dates above.)
- Complete all e-learning courses that correspond with the class.
- Complete all homework assignments, commit to project to be completed after graduation and to include a one year follow up with our staff.
- If selected, and depending upon individual needs, respite and attendant care may be reimbursed.

### **What topics will be addressed?**

- History and Future of Disabilities: People First Language

- Quality and Inclusive Education
- Person Centered Planning, Self Determination, and Informed Choice
- Housing
- Government: Local, State and Federal Policy, Legislation and Process
- Parliamentary Procedure and Serving on Boards
- Community Organizing and Advocacy
- Supportive and Competitive Employment
- Family Support and Supported Living
- Accessibility and Assistive Technology
- Mental Health and Common Topics
- Communication and Accommodations
- Nevada Specific Services
- Service Animals
- Role of Nevada Agencies
- Caregiver Roles and Support
- Disability Cultures and Roles of Cultures

What if I cannot commit to all 128 hours or I am only interested in a few topics?

- You can sign up for individual classes as well. Pre-registration is required and if you need an accommodations, you must request this at least 48 hours in advance of the class. Please follow the link (to be activated later) to register.