



Advocacy training for people
with disabilities and parents

Do you want to make a difference?

- Are you a parent of a child with a disability or a person with a disability?
- Would you like to see a barrier-free society where everyone is a valued member of their community?
- Are you interested in promoting change within your community? Within the state?

If you answered yes to these questions, you might be interested in becoming one of a growing number of more than 500 Hoosiers who are graduates of **Indiana's Partners in Policymaking Academy**.



Indiana Governor's Council
for People with Disabilities

Partners in Policymaking

150 W. Market St., Suite 628
Indianapolis, IN 46204
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The Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is proud to sponsor the Partners in Policymaking Academy.

Partners in Policymaking Academy



To read or download more information and an application, go to www.in.gov/gpcpd and click on Projects. Materials are available in accessible formats on request.

Sponsored by



Indiana Governor's Council
for People with Disabilities

The Partners in Policymaking Academy is a leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. The program teaches leadership skills and techniques to develop positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel and other individuals who make policy decisions about services that you and/or your family use.

In monthly sessions, you will have the opportunity to practice new skills in a comfortable and safe environment, build a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences, and learn from national experts.

Partners in Policymaking is about systems change – creating, working toward and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities. This program is based on the belief that the most effective and enduring public policy decisions are made by the people who need and use services in partnership with policymakers.

It's about becoming confident in yourself, competent in the knowledge and information you'll receive, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise you bring to the program.

The Academy is presented every other year by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities.

What will I learn?

In general, session topics may include:

- History: independent living, parent movement, people first/self-advocates movement
- Education: IDEA, understanding special education, best practices in inclusive education
- State and local policy: services and legislative issues, preparing and giving testimony
- Best practices: supported living, person-centered planning, family supports, employment and assistive technology
- Federal policy and legislative issues: Americans with Disabilities Act, federal disability laws, effective communication with policymakers
- Community organizing: working with community groups, media relations, negotiating, creating change to impact society

Program outline

Partners in Policymaking is a commitment to:

- Attend eight monthly sessions in the Indianapolis area. Generally, sessions run every other year from October through May with each one taking place Friday from noon until 8:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Sign an agreement to attend all sessions and complete homework assignments, including a personal community project.

Partners in Policymaking is based on a program developed by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Partners are widely recognized throughout the United States and overseas. The program is open to a limited number of people. Every other year, 35 Hoosiers with disabilities and family members are selected to participate in this Academy. If selected, hotel, travel, childcare and other related expenses are covered by the program.

Academy graduates agree that the commitment is well worth the life changes that result from the training program. If you are someone who can make this level of commitment, we invite you to apply to be a member of the next class by contacting the Council's office for an application form:

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