

Exciting Opportunity That Could Change Your Life!

Partners in Policymaking®

6 TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND PARENTS
OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Building The Next Generation of Leaders

Partners in Policymaking® is a national leadership training program. It provides **people with developmental disabilities** and **parents of young children with developmental disabilities** the most current information about disability issues and develops the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government.

Productive Partnerships

The goal of Partners in Policymaking® is to achieve productive partnerships between people needing and using services and those who make public policy and laws. It is designed to provide participants with knowledge and skills that enable them to effectively advocate for improving the system of services for people with developmental disabilities in Louisiana.

Partners in Policymaking® educates participants about current issues and best practices and familiarizes them with policymaking and the legislative processes at the local, state and federal levels. Individual sessions are devoted to specific topics presented by nationally known experts in their fields.

An Invitation to Apply

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council annually seeks applications from motivated, interested individuals who have developmental disabilities or parents of young children with developmental disabilities, to become candidates for Partners in Policymaking®.

- The Council is especially interested in individuals who have the enthusiasm and potential to become effective advocates in the future.
- Every attempt is made to select candidates who represent a cross section of gender; disabilities, ethnicities, and geographies of Louisiana.
- Applications are received through September 30th of each year. Candidates are selected and contacted by mail with a packet of complete details by November 15th.

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Partners in Training

- Participants attend weekend training sessions each month from January through June.
- Weekend sessions start Friday at 12:30 p.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.
- Attendance at all sessions is mandatory.
- Participants are expected to:
 - complete assignments between sessions
 - commit to one major assignment to be completed by February of the next calendar year.
- Lodging and meals are provided. Respite care and attendant services for participants will be reimbursed.
- More information will follow upon receipt of your application.

TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- History: Independent Living Movement; Parent and Self Advocacy Movement
- Supported Living; Family Support; and Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology; Understanding Difficult Behaviors; and Education and Inclusion
- State & Federal Policy and Legislative Issues
- Advocacy Organizations and Efforts; Community Organizing
- Parliamentary Procedure and How To Conduct Effective Meetings

Developmental Disabilities Defined

Developmental disabilities occur in people of all racial, ethnic, educational, and economic backgrounds. A developmental disability is a severe, chronic disability of a person which is:

- **ATTRIBUTABLE** to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of such impairments;
- **MANIFESTED** before the person reaches age 22; and is likely to continue indefinitely;
- **RESULTS** in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following seven areas of major life activity:
 - self-care
 - receptive and expressive language
 - learning
 - mobility
 - self-direction
 - capacity for independent living
 - economic self-sufficiency; and
- **REFLECTS** the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services, which are:
 - of lifelong or extended duration and
 - individually planned and coordinated

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The Application Process

1. To be eligible for the next session, applications must be postmarked or faxed **no later than September 30th** of this year.
2. Please attach additional sheets to your application, as needed.
3. On or before September 30th, please mail or fax both pages of the application and any attachment to:

Partners in Policymaking®
LA Developmental Disabilities Council
P.O. Box 3455
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3455
Fax: 225-342-1970 or apply online at
www.laddc.org

4. Please feel free to make copies of this packet for dissemination to interested individuals or to call the Council for additional copies or more information:

1-800-450-8108
1-800-256-1633 TDD

342-6804 in Baton Rouge
342-5704 TDD in Baton Rouge
<http://www.laddc.org>

5. Final selection will be made by November 15th of this year.
6. The next session will begin in January of the coming year.

Graduates Say...

"It has far exceeded anything I ever expected!"

"The sessions were great! They helped me to become an advocate for others and had a profound effect on me as a person."

"It always gives me a fresh feeling of energy and power when I am included in a group of people such as Partners. I am filled with new hope...the beginning of a bright future for my son and all people with disabilities."

"This training was fantastic!"

"Very informative and helpful!"

"Valuable, practical information presented."

Graduates Are...

Developmental Disabilities Council members

School Board members

Living and working in their communities

Bold advocates in their communities

Parish Special Education Advisory Council
Members

LaCAN Leaders and Members