

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking

Realizing a Shared Vision for Advocacy in New Jersey through Education, Empowerment, and Leadership Development

Now Accepting Applications!
Deadline: July 14, 2020

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is a leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities (over age 21) and family members of young children and transition age youth available through collaboration between The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Disability Rights New Jersey. The goal of this program is to prepare the next generation of disability advocates to work toward meaningful change in our state. New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is committed to building a diverse group of participants that is reflective of the needs, geography, and cultural and ethnic backgrounds of New Jersey.

Through participation in 8 monthly educational leadership development sessions held one weekend a month, selected participants learn about best practices and important areas for advocacy from nationally-known experts. Upon completion of the program, participants will have developed the knowledge and skills needed to:

- ★ Advocate for opportunities and supports that promote *self-determination*, *independence*, and *inclusion* in all aspects of community life
- ★ Be members of advisory boards and committees
- ★ Work alongside policymakers and state agencies



What are the requirements of participation?

- ★ Participation in **all 8 educational leadership development sessions** held one weekend a month in Iselin, NJ (Saturday 1:00 PM - 8:30 PM and Sunday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
- ★ Completion of **homework assignments** between sessions, including the development of an **Advocacy Action Plan**

Is there any cost to participate?

No, expenses are paid for by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. Covered expenses include:

- ★ Overnight lodging (shared with another participant)
- ★ Meals and refreshments
- ★ Accommodations such as sign language interpreters, large print materials, or Braille
- ★ Reimbursement for travel
- ★ Reimbursement for child care/respice (if not funded through other means)

What topics will I learn about in the monthly educational sessions?

September 7 & 8

- Parent Advocacy
- Self-Advocacy
- Social Media as an Advocacy Tool

October 5 & 6

- The LifeCourse Framework & Planning
- History of Disability Policy

November 2 & 3

- Inclusive Education
- Transition

December 7 & 8

- Employment
- Supported Decision Making
- Financial Well-Being

January 11 & 12

- Medicaid
- Health & Wellness
- Public Speaking & Effective Communication

February 8 & 9

- State Policy & Systems Change Advocacy
- Supportive Housing
- Direct Support Professional Workforce Issues

March 14 & 15

- Social Capital & Community Connections
- Federal Policy Hot Topics & Tips from the Hill

April 25 & 26

- Putting Leadership into Action
- Graduation

How do I apply?

Those interested in participating are invited to complete the application beginning on page 2 of this packet. An electronic copy of this application is also available on The Boggs Center's website: <http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/projects/NJPartnersinPolicymaking.html>

If you need assistance to complete the application, or would like to complete the application by phone, contact Susan Ellien at (732) 235-9320.

Partners in Policymaking Application

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is an opportunity for adults with developmental disabilities (over 21) and family members of young children and transition aged youth with disabilities to build leadership and advocacy skills. To be considered for the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program, complete the following application and submit by mail, email, or fax to:

Susan Ellien
The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
335 George Street, Suite 3500
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

email: susan.ellien@rutgers.edu
fax: (732) 235-9330

Applications must be received by **July 14, 2020**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by July 15, 2020.

Applicant Information

Name:

First

Middle Initial

Last

Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

I am a: (check all that apply)

Person with a developmental disability

Parent of someone with a developmental disability

Sibling of someone with a developmental disability

Other family member: _____

Demographic Information (Optional)

These questions are not required, but will help to ensure that New Jersey Partners in Policymaking participants are representative of the diversity of the state.

Race/Ethnicity: (check all that apply)

American Indian/Alaskan

Asian/Pacific Islander

Black/African American

White/Caucasian

Hispanic

Other: _____

Primary language spoken: _____

Gender:

Female

Male

Other: _____

If you are a person with a developmental disability:

How old are you? _____ What is your disability? _____

How does your disability affect your daily life?

What kinds of supports, services, or assistive technology do you have?

If you use personal assistance/direct support professional services, can you arrange to have these supports provided while you are participating in New Jersey Partners in Policymaking?

Yes

No

If you are a family member of someone with a developmental disability:

How old is your family member with a developmental disability? _____

What developmental disability does your family member have?

How has your family member's disability affected your daily life and your family?

What services or supports does your family member receive?

Will you need funding for respite or child care services so you can participate in the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program?

Yes

No

Availability & Attendance

Are you willing and able to make a time commitment of one weekend a month (Saturday 1:00 PM- Sunday 4:00 PM) to attend all New Jersey Partners in Policymaking educational sessions?

Yes

No

If you are employed on weekends, can you make necessary arrangements so you can attend all of the sessions?

Yes

No

How would you get to the monthly educational leadership development sessions?

Own car

Transportation from family or friend

Public transportation

Personal Assistant/Agency transportation

Other _____

Accommodations

What, if any, accommodations do you need to help you actively participate in the monthly educational sessions? (For example: large print, Braille, accessible hotel room, sign language interpreter)

Short Response Questions

Please tell us about yourself. (For example: your family, your job, school, community/volunteer activities, personal interests, interesting experiences)

Why do you want to participate in the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking program?

Please describe any experience you have with advocacy. (For example: involvement with advocacy organizations, meeting with legislators, serving on committees or boards)

What is your vision or dream for people with disabilities?

How did you learn about the New Jersey Partners in Policymaking Program?

What disability-related issues are of the most interest to you? (For example: inclusive education, home and community based services, employment)

Letter of Recommendation

In addition to the application form, applicants to New Jersey Partners in Policymaking must submit a letter of recommendation from someone who knows them well. The letter should include information about the applicant's:

- ★ Interest in advocacy
- ★ Commitment to fulfill the requirements of the program
- ★ General character and strengths

Letters may be sent with the completed application or separately, but must clearly identify the individual being recommended.

Please provide the name and contact information for the person providing a letter of recommendation on your behalf below:

Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Additional Information

Please use the space below to add any relevant information you weren't able to include in the sections above:

Apply Now for 2020!



July 2020