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*Providing Partners with the knowledge and collaborative advocacy skills to inform and advance disability policy issues throughout New York State.**

OVERVIEW:

Partners in Policymaking is an innovative national model of leadership training for people with developmental disabilities, parents and family members. It is designed to provide state-of-the-art knowledge about issues and policies related to disability, and to develop participant competencies to become more effective in influencing policy development at all levels. The purpose is to build a productive partnership between people with developmental disabilities, parents, family members, and policymakers.

INNOVATIVE ON-LINE TRAINING MODEL:

Begun more than 20 years ago by the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, this program has been offered in NYS since the 1990s and has had major impact on important issues in the field of developmental disabilities. In New York, Partners is now offered as a series of interactive online training modules and webinars, combined with a regional testimony experience. This new format allows for more individuals from across the state to participate.

Partners complete a series of training sessions and are expected to complete assignments between sessions and to commit to one major project during their training year, to be completed in the following year. Projects include activities such as serving an internship, serving on a board, organizing a letter writing campaign, or organizing special receptions or town meetings for public officials. Upon graduation, members join the Partners Graduate group and become eligible for follow up activities and advanced training. They continue to report their activities on the Partners website.

PARTNERS CLASS SESSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Disability History and Policy
- State and Federal Issues
- Creating Community
- Systemic Advocacy in Practice: Field Testimony
- Inclusion
- Leadership
- Individualized Services

BECOMING A PARTNER:

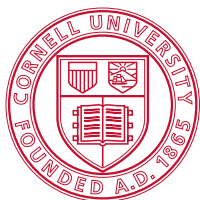
Each year, participants from throughout New York are selected for inclusion in the training program. Selection is based on the individual’s desire to influence policy change as determined by the content of their application. The program is free and is currently being offered in an interactive distance learning format. The Partners in Policymaking program provides an excellent opportunity for participants to become more effective advocates and to prepare for assuming leadership roles in policymaking. Self-advocates are encouraged to apply and indicate any supports needed. Two 4 month sessions are offered each year, Spring and Fall.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
NYSPIP@CORNELL.EDU
WANT TO JOIN?**

Fill out the application to get started.

Go to www.nyspip.org and click on:
Individuals Interested in Becoming Partners
I want to apply*

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 1, 2014



Cornell University



*NYS Partners in Policymaking is sponsored by the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council