



Participants of *Partners in Policymaking* learn how to work with public officials, agencies, and private organizations to promote positive systems change for Oklahomans with disabilities.

Partners is designed for:

- Adults with disabilities
- Family members of persons with disabilities
- Allies and professionals who support people with disabilities

The diagnosis doesn't matter. The age of your child doesn't matter. How much education you have doesn't matter. What matters is that you are ready and willing to change the world.

— Erin, *Partners* graduate

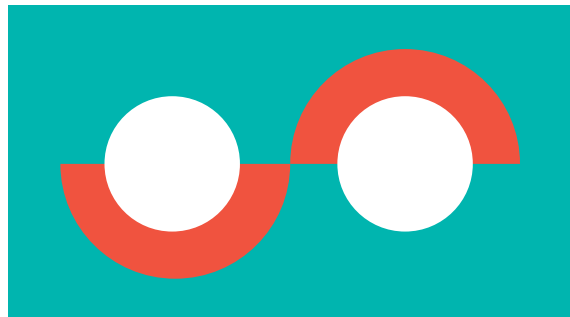
Partners training allow participants to:

- Hear national experts speak about developmental disabilities and advocacy skills.
- Learn how to engage in policy and systems change.
- Foster positive and productive relationships with policymakers.
- Learn how to prevent loss of human and civil rights for people with disabilities.
- Gain direct experience to influence public policy including: engaging with agency directors, strategizing, negotiating, and public speaking.

There's just so much you can learn in a short time; it's like a crash course in parenting and advocacy all in one, and it really did change my life.
— Traci, *Partners* graduate

Partners topics include:

- Advocacy strategies
- Inclusive education & special education law
- Inclusive community living
- Sexuality & relationships
- Guardianship & alternatives
- Grassroots organizing
- People-first language
- State & federal legislative processes
- Serving on a board & leadership development
- Working with the media
- Employment
- Person-centered planning
- Assistive technology
- State & federal services including Social Security, Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation, etc.
- Tools for supporting individuals & families



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Oklahoma PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Disability Advocacy Training for Parents, Family, Self-Advocates and Professionals



www.okddc.ok.gov

A program funded by



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

YOUR Commitment to *Partners*:

- Be willing to have your perspectives widened, and your perceptions challenged.
- Be committed to systems change beyond your own family's needs.
- Be welcoming to those who have experiences different than yours.
- Actively participate in all eight, two-day sessions.
- Complete all homework and group assignments.
- Use mentoring and learner supports provided for qualified students.
- Participate in all evaluations.
- Maintain a record of advocacy efforts.
- Stay connected to the *Partners* community by participating in surveys and further training opportunities after graduation, and by keeping contact information updated.

The *Partners* Schedule

Whether in-person or virtual, sessions will be held on the weekends. Individual sessions can last 2 to 3 hours. It is important to understand before you apply to *Partners* that the program is a large time commitment, and we require consistent attendance as part of our graduation standards. If you are accepted to the *Partners* program, you will receive a detailed schedule with more information about the format and attendance expectations for the program.



Partners' Commitment to YOU:

- Outstanding fellowship, access to national experts, and dozens of print, Web, and video resources available at no cost to you. You will graduate with lifelong friends and significant allies.
- Lunch and dinner are provided during in person class sessions.
- Financial assistance associated with travel, including mileage, family care and hotel stays, is available. (Eligibility requirements apply.)
- Technology provided to access online classes.

Partners believed in me as an advocate for my children. They inspire when I get tired because I see I am not fighting alone.
— Adam, *Partners* graduate

Partners in Policymaking: 300+ Oklahoma advocates across two decades.

Partners applications are evaluated by a panel of successful *Partners* graduates. We seek a diverse group where each candidate welcomes challenges including public speaking, working in teams, and being open-minded to new viewpoints.

Space in *Partners* is limited. Please apply again if not accepted.

For our application, visit our website or contact us:
Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
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Begin your *Partners* in Policy-making application today!

