

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking

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

**2021-2022 Hybrid Online & In-Person Program
Now Accepting Applications!
Deadline: June 25, 2021**

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 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. The Boggs Center is committed to building a diverse group of participants that is reflective of the needs, geography, and cultural and ethnic backgrounds of New Jersey.

The COVID-19 pandemic brings uncertainty with how long social-distancing measures will need to be in place. The 2021-2022 Partners in Policymaking sessions are currently scheduled to take place using a hybrid model that combines virtual learning through the use of online technology and potentially in-person training sessions. While we hope to be able to meet in person starting in January for one day a month, the situation will be monitored and accommodations to continue with virtual learning will be made as needed.

Through participation in virtual or in-person educational leadership development sessions and completion of online assignments, 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



**New Jersey
Partners in Policymaking**



What are the requirements of participation?

- ★ Participation in **all educational leadership development sessions** held online and in-person at a central location.
 - Online sessions to be held one weekend a month Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and one Wednesday a month from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm from September through April.
 - In-Person sessions may be held one day a month, on either Friday 2:00 pm – 7:30 pm or Saturday 9:30 am – 3:00 pm in 2022 (contingent on social distancing and safety requirements)
- ★ Completion of between session online assignments. These assignments will be given to enhance learning between online sessions and may include watching videos and other assignments.
- ★ Completion of **homework assignments**, 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 for **in-person** sessions include:

- ★ Meals and refreshments
- ★ Reimbursement for travel (based on established limits)
- ★ Reimbursement for child care/respite (based on established limits)

Accommodations such as sign language interpreters, large print materials, or Braille provided as needed.

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

September 10 & 11 & 22 (online)

- Parent Advocacy
- Self-Advocacy

October 8 & 9 & 20 (online)

- Charting the LifeCourse Framework & Planning
- History of Disability Policy and the Impact on Today

November 5 & 6 & 17 (online)

- Medicaid; Health & Wellness
- Inclusive Education

December 10 & 11 & 22 (online)

- Transition
- Employment

January 7 & 8 & 19 (TBD online or hybrid)

- Supported Decision Making
- DSP Workforce

February 11 & 12 & 16 (TBD online or hybrid)

- Federal Hot Topics & Tips from the Hill
- Public Speaking & Effective Communication

March 11 & 12 & 23 (TBD online or hybrid)

- Putting Leadership into Action
- State Policy & Systems Change Advocacy

April 8 & 9 (TBD online or hybrid)

- Building Social Capital & Community Connections
- 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 Jaime Zahid at (732) 235-9613, jaime.zahid@rutgers.edu.

Partners in Policymaking Application

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is an opportunity for adults with developmental disabilities (over 21) and family members of 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 email to Jaime Zahid at jaime.zahid@rutgers.edu

Applications must be received by **June 25, 2021**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by July 30, 2021.

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 reimbursement 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 and one Wednesday a month to participate in **all** New Jersey Partners in Policymaking educational sessions?

- Yes No

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

- Yes No

What technology would you use to participate in the virtual sessions and complete the online assignments (check all that apply)?

- Computer/Chromebook Home Wifi/Internet Access
 Tablet Phone data plan
 Smart Phone I do not have technology available

How would you get to in-person 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)

What support would you need to effectively use technology for learning? Is there someone at your house that can support you, if needed?

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.

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?

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 (non-relative recommendations preferred). 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 emailed with the completed application or separately, but must clearly identify the individual being recommended. Letters must be emailed to jaimenzahid@rutgers.edu by June 25th.

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Apply Now for 2021-2022!



May 2021