

# New Jersey Partners in Policymaking

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

## 2023-2024 Hybrid Program Now Accepting Applications! Deadline: July 12, 2023

**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 2023-2024 Partners in Policymaking sessions are currently scheduled to take place using a hybrid model which combines in-person and virtual learning. A fully virtual option for those that are immunocompromised or have an immunocompromised family member that prevents in-person participation will be made available.

Through participation in in-person and virtual 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



## What are the requirements of participation?

- ★ Participation in **all educational leadership development sessions** held in New Brunswick, NJ and virtually.
  - In-Person sessions will be held one weekend a month in September, November, February, and April (Friday 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Saturday 8:30 am – 3:00 pm)
  - Virtual sessions will be held one weekend a month in October, December, January, and March (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.
- ★ 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:

- ★ Overnight lodging (shared with another participant)
- ★ Meals and refreshments
- ★ Reimbursement for travel
- ★ Reimbursement for child care/respite at up to \$20 an hour, up to \$200 a weekend.

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 22 – 23 (In Person)**

- Advocacy Impact of Families and People with Disabilities

### **Wednesday, October 4 (Virtual)**

### **October 20 – 21 (Virtual)**

- The Life Course Framework
- History of Disability Policy

### **November 3 – 4 (In Person)**

- Inclusive Education
- Transition

### **Wednesday, November 15 (Virtual)**

### **December 1 – 2 (Virtual)**

- Medicaid; Health & Wellness
- Employment

### **Wednesday, December 13 (Virtual)**

### **January 12 – 13 (Virtual)**

- Federal Policy Hot Topics & Advocacy
- Effective Communication & Public Speaking

### **Wednesday, January 24 (Virtual)**

### **February 2 – 3 (In Person)**

- Supported Decision Making
- Direct Support Professional Workforce

### **Wednesday, February 21 (Virtual)**

### **March 8 – 9 (Virtual)**

- State Systems Change Advocacy
- Legislative Mock Testimony

### **Wednesday, March 20 (Virtual)**

### **April 19 – 20 (In Person)**

- Building Social Capital and Community Connections
- Graduation

## How do I apply?

Those interested in participating are invited to complete the application below. An electronic copy of this application is also available on The Boggs Center's website:

<https://boggscenter.rwjms.rutgers.edu/training-and-consultation/partners-in-policymaking>

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](mailto: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](mailto:jaime.zahid@rutgers.edu)

Applications must be received by **July 12, 2023**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by July 31, 2023.

## 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 Identity:**

Woman

Man

Transgender

Non-binary/Non-conforming

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer not to respond

**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 **and** arrive on time?

- 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

Will you be unable to come to the in-person sessions and require a fully virtual option to participate?

- Yes  No

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to stay overnight during the in-person sessions?

- Yes  No

## 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)

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

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## 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, such as a current or former colleague, supervisor, or educator. 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](mailto:jaimenzahid@rutgers.edu) by July 12.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Apply Now for 2023-2024!



**April 2023**