

Partners in Policymaking

The Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities Council

Mission

To create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Vision

Virginians with developmental disabilities direct their own lives and choose how they live, learn, work, and play.

Become an Effective Advocate!

People with developmental disabilities or parents of young children with developmental disabilities are eligible to apply for Partners in Policymaking (PIP). The Partners program requires a substantial commitment of time, motivation and energy. Individuals participating in the program attend advocacy training, resource development and skill building workshops one weekend a month for eight months.

There is no cost to participate in the program. The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) supports participants by paying for transportation, meals, respite care, and lodging during training sessions.

Highly Motivated Virginians Encouraged to Apply

Individuals who are not already involved in advocacy organizations are especially encouraged to apply for the Partners program. Partners are chosen through a competitive application process administered statewide. Each applicant submits an application form and three letters of recommendation. The deadline is April 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Participants are selected and notified in the month of July for the class beginning in the fall. Each session begins Friday afternoon and concludes late Saturday afternoon. **If accepted, attendance and participation in all eight training sessions (September 2012-May 2013) is required.**

Benefits:

- ▶ Get connected, speak up and out, educate, and communicate—on inclusion, quality education, accessible housing, and supported employment for people with developmental disabilities
- ▶ Build positive relationships with families, schools, employers, elected officials
- ▶ Learn how to impact local, state, and national policies through advocacy and awareness
- ▶ Improve the lives of people with disabilities in your local community and across Virginia
- ▶ Understand the strategies used to support people with developmental disabilities in their own homes across the life span
- ▶ Gain exposure to best practices, new philosophies, and current trends from national speakers and presenters

Applications Due April 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

We strongly encourage electronic submission of application materials. To apply, please download the application at www.vaboard.org.

Contact Rachel Loria at VBPD with your questions. 1-800-846-4464 (Voice/TTY) or 804-786-3456 or Rachel.Loria@vbpd.virginia.gov

