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## About Partners in Policymaking

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Partners in Policymaking® is an innovative leadership program created specifically to teach people with disabilities and the parents of young children with disabilities to:

- Become agents of long-term change.
- Be active partners with the policymakers whose decisions will shape their future.
- Dream about a future with possibilities.



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## Application

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Applications are available from the DD Council website in late Spring for sessions beginning the following October. Copies may be requested from the DD Council office by calling 803-734-0465.

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## Qualifications

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- Adult with a developmental disability.
- Parent of a young child with a developmental disability.
- Ability to travel to Columbia for monthly overnight sessions October through March.

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## Session Details

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- No cost for sessions.
- Participants are reimbursed for travel costs to and from Columbia.
- Lodging and meals provided. Participants receive dinner Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.
- Attendant support and respite reimbursement provided.
- Reasonable accommodations provided.
- Program materials provided.

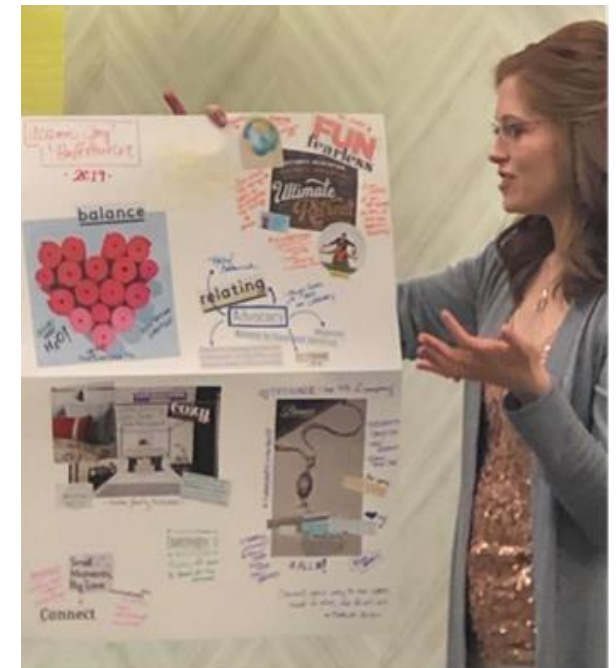


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## Expectations

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Participants in the Partners in Policymaking® program are expected to attend five two-day sessions between October and March. All sessions begin at 12:00 p.m. on Friday and conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. By building skills to advocate with elected officials and other policymakers, partners directly impact people with disabilities and their families. Participants will have a better chance of influencing changes to existing policies or development of new policies.



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## Session Topics

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### Session 1: Getting The Facts

- Introduction
- Disability History

### Session 2: Using the Best Tools

- Inclusive Education
- Transition
- Employment

### Session 3: Equipping Yourself

- Local Government
- Community Organizing
- Service Coordination/Case Management
- Vision

### Session 4: Impact and Awareness

- Assistive Technology
- Supported Living/Independent Living
- State House visit
- State Legislation
- Federal Legislation

### Session 5: Empowered

- Parliamentary Procedure and Serving on Boards
- Graduation

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## About DD Council

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The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by Executive Order of the Governor and was last reauthorized in 2015. Not less than 60% of the total Council membership is consumers and family members. Additional membership comes from state agencies, DD Act partners and non-governmental organizations.



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Developmental Disabilities Council

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Partners in Policymaking<sup>®</sup> is a leadership training program that teaches adults with disabilities and parents how to be community leaders and how to advocate for themselves and others. The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities introduced Partners in Policymaking<sup>®</sup> in 1987, and, through expansion to other states and countries, has trained more than 27,000 people worldwide. Participants travel to Columbia once a month for five months to receive information, training and resources about local, state and national issues that affect people with disabilities.