

**Connecticut Partners in Policymaking 2022 A Leadership Training Program**

**Information, Training Schedule and Application**

**APPLY TODAY!**

### Space is limited.

Deadline for Applications: Friday, January 21, 2022

### **CT State Independent Living Council**

### **CT Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Disability Rights Connecticut, Inc.**

**University of CT Center for Excellence in**

**Developmental Disabilities**

   

# What is Partners in Policymaking?

**Partners in Policymaking is about systems change: creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities. Partners’ graduates often become life long and long-term agents of change in the community.**

**IF YOU ARE READY TO LEAD SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CONNECTICUT THEN CONSIDER APPLYING TO PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING!**

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership training program that prepares adults with disabilities and family members of children with disabilities to be effective advocates at local, state and national levels. The goal of Partners in Policymaking is to train leaders who can become active partners with those who make policy. **Partners’ graduates can change the future by influencing public policy today!**

The seven-month program is available in over 30 states. Graduates of past Partners in Policymaking training in Connecticut have become involved in key policy and advocacy roles in the state. They often become members of boards, councils, task forces and advisory committees. They are recognized as skilled and capable leaders in disability issues in their communities and in the state.

***“I am a self-advocate and a father of two children with physical and intellectual disabilities. I joined Partners in Policymaking so that I could be a better advocate for myself and more importantly for my children. Not only did Partners help me become the best advocate I can be (2016 Epilepsy Foundation of America Advocate of the Year) but I also created and now Chair my town’s Commission on People with Disabilities. If you REALLY want to help yourself and others with disabilities, you have got to become a Partner!”***

**Jim Ross, Partners Class of 2015**

Up to 30 participants will be selected from a competitive application process for Connecticut Partners in Policymaking 2022. **Participants are required to attend ALL sessions**. Classes are held from 12 PM to 9 PM on Fridays and 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays. All training will be at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT. Partners in Policymaking 2022 classes are scheduled for the following weekends:

March 11-12

April 8-9

May 6-7

June 17-18

July 8-9

August 19-20

September 16-17

\*\*Graduation\*\*

Participants will hear from national and state subject matter experts in sessions with topics such as:

* The History of the Developmental Disabilities Movement; Lessons Learned and the Way Forward
* State Laws and Policies and Those Who Create Them
* Federal Laws and Policies and Those Who Create Them
* Inclusive Education and Lifelong Learning
* Employment
* Housing and Transportation
* Positive Behavioral Supports
* Assistive Technology
* Independent Living
* Supporting Families
* Community Organizing

Additionally, throughout the year, participants are required to identify and work on an individual project to increase their disability related knowledge and inspire change in the community by exploring issues faced by people with developmental disabilities and their families.

***“Partners in Policymaking has given me the tools to not only advocate for my son, but also for people with disabilities in the community. When I started I had a terrible fear of public speaking. I am now presenting in front of thousands of people at public events and advocating on levels I never knew was possible. I am taking with me an incredible amount of knowledge and resources I have learned over the past seven months.”***

**Heather Dierberger, Partners Class of 2019**

# Partners Training Requirements

The Connecticut Partners in Policymaking training consists of seven weekend training sessions (Friday at 12 PM through Saturday at 4 PM) with nationally recognized speakers and state experts in disability issues. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL SEVEN SESSIONS IS MANDATORY**. Please do not apply if you do not feel you will be able to attend all classes. In addition to attending all sessions, participants are expected to **arrive on time**, **complete all homework assignments and complete an advocacy project prior to graduation**.

**Partners training is offered at no cost to participants.**

* Partners will provide lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.
* All hotel costs including overnight accommodations and meals will be paid by Connecticut Partners in Policymaking.
* Reasonable accessibility accommodations, including transportation, will be provided on an individual basis.

**ATTENDANCE AT ALL SEVEN SESSIONS IS MANDATORY**

# Who Should Apply?

# Applicants should be

* Individuals with disabilities
* Family members of individuals with disabilities

Thirty participants will be chosen. Participants should be able to actively participate in training and discussion. Prior to completion of the program, participants will be required to complete an independent advocacy project. Participants should have an email address, access to a computer, and reliable internet service. All communication for this program will be done electronically. Paper copies of materials will not be provided.

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

* Proof of vaccination or appropriate documentation of a disability related waiver will be required.
* All participants will be required to wear a mask.

## How to Apply For Partners

**Complete the application online using this link:** <https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kQmY1UC9A9QPDE>

**OR**

**Complete the attached application and e-mail\* it no later than Friday January 21, 2022.**

**Laurie Cantwell, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator at**

ctpolicymaking@gmail.com

**For questions and concerns you may call Laurie at:**

**(800) 842-7303**

\*Please submit a scanned copy. Photographs of the application form will not be accepted.

**Make A Difference…**

**Be A Leader…**

***Apply To Partners In Policymaking Today!***

**Partners in Policymaking 2022 Application**

**Return by Friday, January 21, 2022**

*Please complete all pages of this form and return to:*

**Laurie Cantwell,** **ctpolicymaking@gmail.com**

##### Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

##### Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Home Telephone:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Cell Phone:** Click here to enter

**E-Mail:** Click or tap here to enter text.

[ ]  **Male** [ ]  **I am a person with a disability**.

[ ]  **Female** [ ]  **I am a parent of a child with a disability**

[ ]  **I am a family member of an individual with a disability**

**For funding purposes, we must indicate which of our participants or their family members have a developmental disability. The federal definition of developmental disability is at the end of this application. Please review the definition and indicate below whether you or your family member have a developmental disability. All individuals are eligible to apply. Your answer to this question will not impact your chance of being accepted into the program.**

[ ]  **I, or my family member meet the definition of a person with a developmental disability, as stated on page seven of this application.**

[ ]  **I, or my family member do not meet the definition of a person with a developmental disability as stated on page seven of this application.**

1. **Please tell us how disability impacts your life.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Why do you want to enroll in Partners in Policymaking? Is there one specific issue, area of concern or problem that made you want to apply to this program?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Please describe what impact you want to make in the community and how you see yourself taking what you learn from Partners in Policymaking back to your community.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **What makes you an excellent candidate for this program? Include skills, knowledge and abilities you would contribute to the class.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **What types of experiences have you had in advocating for people with disabilities? Include advocacy, civic organizations or support groups you belong to. (*Membership in other organizations is not a requirement for your participation in this project*.) ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**Click or tap here to enter text.

# Please tell us about yourself/your family.

* + **If you are working, tell us about your job and the kind of work you do:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* + **If you are in school, tell us about the types of classes you are taking:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* + **In what type of community/volunteer activities are you involved?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **How did you learn about the Partners in Policymaking Program?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

##### List one reference who is not a family member and who is able to discuss with us your experience in disability issues.

**Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email:**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

##### I have reviewed the description of Partners in Policymaking 2022 training:

* **I agree to attend all the sessions as listed on the Partners in Policymaking 2022 brochure.**
* **I have access to email, a computer, and reliable internet service.**
* **I will complete all homework assignments prior to each session.**
* **I will complete an advocacy project approved by my faculty advisor prior to graduation.**
* **I understand that failure to meet these requirements may result in dismissal from the training at any time.**

##### Signature Date

**Return this form NO LATER THAN Friday, January 21, 2022**

**Laurie Cantwell, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator** **ctpolicymaking@gmail.com**

**(800) 842-7303**

# Federal Definition of Developmental Disability

Under federal law, developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

* Is attributable to a **mental or physical impairment or combination** of mental and physical impairments;
* Is manifested **before the age of 22**;
* Is likely to **continue indefinitely**;
* Results in **substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas** of major life activity:
	+ - Self-care
		- Receptive and expressive language
		- Learning
		- Mobility
		- Self-direction
		- Capacity for independent living
		- Economic self-sufficiency
		- Reflects the individual’s need for services, supports or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.