

OKLAHOMA Partners IN POLICYMAKING

Disability Advocacy Training for Parents,
Family, Self-Advocates and Professionals



For:
Adults with Disabilities
Parents & Family Members
Allies & Professionals

A program
funded by

OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENTAL



DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Partners students learn how to work with public officials, agencies and private organizations to promote positive systems change for Oklahomans with disabilities.

Partners is designed for:

- Adults with disabilities.
- Family members of persons with disabilities who need advocates.
- Allies and professionals working with people with disabilities.

The diagnosis doesn't matter. The age of your child doesn't matter. How much education you have doesn't matter.

What matters is that you are ready and willing to change the world.

Erin, Partners graduate

Partners training will:

- Include national experts speaking on developmental disabilities and advocacy skills.
- Educate participants how to engage in policy and systems change.
- Foster positive and productive relationships with policymakers.
- Prevent the loss of human and civil rights for people with disabilities.

- Provide direct experience in influencing public policy including engaging with agency directors, strategizing, negotiating and public speaking.

There's just so much you can learn in a short time; it's like a crash course in parenting and advocacy all in one, and it really did change my life.

Traci, Partners graduate

Partners topics include:

- Advocacy strategies
- Inclusive education & special education law
- Inclusive community living
- Sexuality & relationships
- Guardianship & alternatives
- Grassroots organizing
- People-first language
- State & federal legislative processes
- Serving on a board & leadership development
- Working with the media
- Employment
- Person-centered planning
- Assistive technology
- State & federal services including Social Security, Medicaid, vocational rehabilitation, etc.
- Tools for supporting individuals & families

YOUR Commitment to Partners:

- Be willing to have your perspectives widened and perceptions challenged.
- Be committed to systems change beyond your own family's needs.
- Be welcoming to those who have experiences different than yours.
- Actively participate in all eight, two-day sessions.
- Complete all homework and group assignments.
- Use mentoring and learner supports provided for qualified students.
- Participate in all evaluations.
- Maintain a record of advocacy efforts.
- Stay connected to the Partners community by participating in surveys and further training opportunities after graduation and keeping contact information updated.

**Trust yourself as a parent;
you owe that to yourself.**

**Advocate for your child; you
owe that to them.**

Pattye, Partners graduate

The Partners Schedule:

- Applications are due by the last week of June.
- By August, you will know if you have been accepted into the program.
- Our classes are held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hold three classes across October and November (no December classes). In January, we meet again every month until May's graduation.
- **You should not apply to the Partners program unless you are committed to be present for each weekend and for the entire weekend.** Our program expects this as part of our graduation standards.



Partners' Commitment to YOU:

- Outstanding fellowship, access to national experts, and dozens of print, Web, and video resources available at no cost to you. You will graduate with lifelong friends and significant allies.
- Lunch and dinner during class time are provided.
- Financial assistance associated with travel, including mileage, family care and hotel stays, is available. (Elegibility requirements apply.)

Partners believed in me as an advocate for my children. They inspire when I get tired because I see I am not fighting alone.

Adam, Partners graduate

**Partners in Policymaking:
300+ Oklahoma advocates
across two decades.**

Partners applications are evaluated each summer by a panel of successful Partners graduates. We seek a diverse group where each candidate welcomes challenges including public speaking, teamworking, and widening mindsets. Not all applicants are

accepted, and we encourage you to apply again if you are not accepted. Need more information or would like a Partners graduate to speak to your group?

Erin Taylor, ODDC
Partners graduate, 2011
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Our offices:
Shepherd Mall, Oklahoma City.
Oklahoma Developmental
Disabilities Council
2401 N.W. 23rd St., Ste. 74
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

**Begin your Partners
application today!**

- ◆ Download the application and mail, fax or email it to Erin using the contact information above.
- ◆ Make sure we have your application by the last week of June.





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