

## Competencies

Partners in Policymaking is a focused effort to develop knowledge, skills and abilities. Quality programs take seriously their commitment to make good on their promises and deliver results.

The results you promise are that, upon graduation, Partners participants will be able to:

- Describe the history of services for, and perceptions of, people with developmental disabilities.
- Describe significant contributions of the parents' movement.
- Describe the history of the self-advocacy and independent living movements.
- Describe the benefits and values supporting inclusion and quality education, including post-secondary education, for students with and without disabilities.
- Outline specific strategies to achieve inclusion and quality education.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the service coordination system and what services may be available.
- Describe the importance of self-directed planning for people with developmental disabilities.
- Understand the principles of choice and control of resources in self-directed planning.
- Understand the reasons for and the importance of proper positioning techniques for people with physical disabilities.
- Describe examples of state-of-the-art technologies that can benefit people with disabilities.
- Describe the importance of supported, competitive employment opportunities.
- Understand that a flexible, responsive system of supports for the families of children with disabilities is the cornerstone for a true system of community supports for people with developmental disabilities.
- Understand the need for all individuals to experience regular and ordinary changes in lifestyle across the lifespan.
- Know/understand the importance of home ownership/ control as one of the defining characteristics of adult life in our culture.

- Understand the basic principles and strategies being used to support people with developmental disabilities in their own homes across the lifespan.
- Create a vision for the year 2020 (and beyond) for people with disabilities.
- Understand how a bill becomes a law at the state and federal levels.
- Identify critical federal issues and the process by which participants can personally address their concerns.
- Demonstrate successful techniques for advocating for services to meet the needs of unserved and underserved individuals.
- Draft and deliver testimony for legislative hearings.
- Learn how to meet a public official and discuss issues.
- Identify strategies for beginning and sustaining grassroots organizing.
- Understand when and how to use the media to effectively promote participants' issues.
- Demonstrate proper procedures for conducting a meeting.
- Gain a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure and serving on boards.