

# Illinois Partners in Policymaking®



# INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE



Class 6  
October 25, 2024–June 21, 2025



# A leadership training program



For adults with developmental disabilities, parents of children under the age of 22 with developmental disabilities, adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities, legal guardians, and supporters in Supported Decision-Making Agreements for individuals with developmental disabilities.

*The Partners in Policymaking® program is about achieving greater:*

- Independence
- Productivity
- Self-Determination
- Integration
- Inclusion
- Belonging

*through advocacy and systems change.*

*“Definitely the diversity of the group opened my eyes to the bubble I live in in the suburbs of Chicago. The self-advocates were inspiring. All my PIP peeps will be lifelong friends.”*

*–Parent, Partners Graduate*



**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY  
5 PM ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2024,  
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CLASS 6.  
FIND THE APPLICATION AT [ICDD.ILLINOIS.GOV](http://ICDD.ILLINOIS.GOV)**

# Illinois Partners In Policingmaking®

Partners in Policingmaking® (PIP) is a leadership training program originally designed for parents of school-age children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. Partners was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities more than 35 years ago and has since been offered nationally and internationally. Partners teaches leadership skills necessary to develop positive partnerships and working relationships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services and supports that you and/or your family use. Partners is accessible, informative, and empowering. The graduates of Partners often become members of boards, councils, task forces and advisory committees; some run for elected office, and some secure employment in disability advocacy or service organizations.

Partners is about **systems change**—creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about, for, and with, people with disabilities. It is based on the belief that the most effective and enduring public policy decisions are made by the people who need and use the services and supports in partnership with elected officials and other policymakers. It is about becoming confident in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable sharing your life experiences and expertise that will enhance the Partners program.

Partners participants spend eight sessions building a “toolbox” of information, knowledge, and skills for communicating effectively with legislators, policymakers, and administrators. All presentations, assignments, and group activities are designed to give participants practice and experience to improve policy, supports and services systems and staff, and opportunities for full participation as a valued member belonging in their community. It is **mandatory** that participants attend every session.

*“There were so many different viewpoints and understanding and it broadened my own understandings. Everyone was so supportive.”*  
—Self-advocate,  
Partners Graduate



# Illinois Partners In Policingmaking®

## Applications will be accepted from:

- Adults with developmental disabilities, 22 years of age and older
- Parents, legal guardians, and family members (including adult siblings) of people with developmental disabilities
- Supporters in Supported Decision-Making Agreements for individuals with developmental disabilities

## Requirements

### To participate, the Partners program requires:

- a commitment to attend and participate in ALL eight sessions
- an interest in learning and practicing new skills in a comfortable and safe environment
- A desire to build and strengthen a network of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences
- A willingness to learn from national and state experts who share our vision and values

 **All Participants Must Be Illinois Residents.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IL PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®, CONTACT:

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HIGH IMPACT Mission-based  
Consulting & Training  
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IL Partners in Policymaking®  
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or 847-533-6714



# Illinois Partners In Policing<sup>®</sup>



- ✓ Before beginning to complete the application, please read ALL the instructions, questions, eligibility definitions, submission requirements, and important information included on the Application form.
- ✓ Applicants must complete ALL sections of the Application form and return it to by the deadline for it to be considered. Application forms must be received no later than 5 pm on Saturday, September 7, 2024, to be considered for the 2024-2025 PIP Class 6.
- ✓ Electronic submission by email is preferred. However, applications will be accepted by email or U.S. Mail. Information on how to complete and submit the application is included in the instructions on the last page of the Application.
- ✓ Participation in Partners is a commitment of time and energy and requires work outside of class time to complete homework and an Advocacy Project. **Please review the calendar carefully** before submitting your application.

## Selection Process

A Review Committee, which includes Partners Graduates and representatives from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, selects participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited. Selection decisions will be made by Monday, September 30, 2024.



You can find the application at [ICDD.Illinois.gov](https://icdd.illinois.gov). If you have ANY questions or need accommodations to complete the application, please contact Jan Bergman, Coordinator, at [janb.ilpip@gmail.com](mailto:janb.ilpip@gmail.com).

# Illinois Partners In Policing<sup>®</sup>

## Cost Information

There is no fee to attend. Program costs are covered in part by a federal appropriation from the Administration for Community Living to the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. These funds are used to carry out the Partners program for those chosen for the class.



Overnight accommodations are provided at no cost for those who drive a distance to attend. Class members are matched and housed in double occupancy rooms. Mileage/travel reimbursement will be provided to cover travel costs.

Also covered are meals, speaker handouts, resource materials, publications, and interpreter or language translation services.

Respite/Childcare & PCAs – Reimbursement up to a maximum dollar amount per weekend session is available for participants needing these services when another funding source does not pick up these expenses.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

The Partners Program does not provide onsite childcare services. Family members are not permitted to stay at the hotel during the weekend training sessions unless a family member is serving as a personal assistant to a class member.

# Are you an Individual with a Disability, a Family Member, a Sibling, or Supporter in a Supported Decision-Making Agreement?

IL Partners in Policymaking® provides innovative leadership and advocacy training for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to impact the issues they care about. PIP is about forming productive partnerships and creating inclusive communities.

## Systems Change Topics to be Covered in Partners in Policymaking®

- Disability History
- Inclusive Education
- Building Inclusive Communities
- Transition – School to Adulthood
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Person-Centered Planning and Thinking
- Supported Living and Home of Your Own
- Customized Employment and Meaningful Day
- Service Coordination System
- IL DD Delivery System
- Community Organizing
- IL Legislative Process and Advocacy Strategies
- Role of the Federal Government and Disability Policies
- Benefits Planning
- ABLE Accounts
- Medicaid and Home and Community-Based Services Waivers
- Supported Decision Making
- Creating a Future Vision



## There will be three virtual/online Orientation sessions.

Successful completion of Partners in Policymaking® Class 6 requires a commitment to attend ALL sessions—three virtual/online Orientation sessions, five in-person weekends and nine 2.5-5.5 hour virtual/online sessions with breaks. Please review the schedule below and make certain you can attend ALL sessions before applying. A commitment to participate in ALL sessions is **mandatory** to be considered as a participant in Class 6.

- ✓ Class 6 training sessions will take place in-person or online. Participation in **ALL** sessions is required.
- ✓ In-person sessions are **NOT** recorded.
- ✓ On-camera attendance and engagement are **mandatory** for all virtual/online sessions. If you do not have access to a computer, internet, or your internet is unreliable, please contact Jan Bergman, janb.ilpip@gmail.com. We will work with you to access the technology and/or internet service you need for your active participation during PIP Class 6.
- ✓ We do understand emergency situations may arise.



*I would recommend other self-advocates and parents to be a part of PIP as the experience was amazing. You learn about the federal, state, and local rules/laws that govern disability services. Learning about technology is helpful to becoming a better advocate. –Self-advocate, Partners Graduate*



# Illinois Partners In Policymaking® Schedule

## Three Virtual/online Orientation Sessions

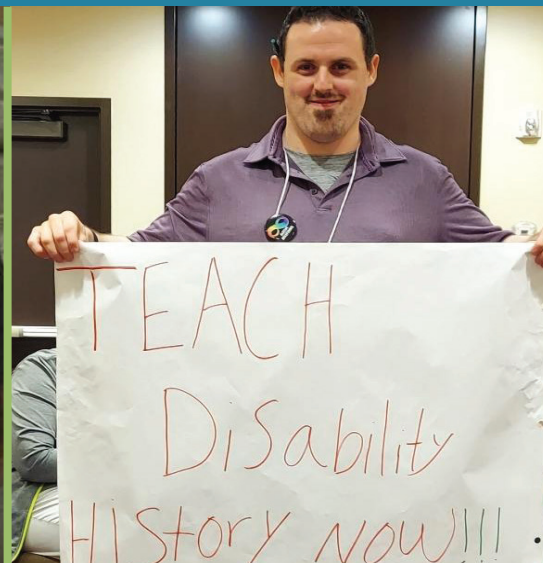
1. Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 7pm to 9:15 pm
2. Thursday, October 17, 2024, 7 pm to 9:15 pm
3. Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9:30 am to 12 pm

## Four In-Person Sessions at The Hyatt Place Hotel (Normal, IL.)

1. Friday, October 25, 2024, 11:30 am (Bring a brown bag lunch) to 9:00 pm– Saturday, October 26, 2024, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
2. Friday, November 22, 2024, 11:30 am (Bring a brown bag lunch) to 9:00 pm– Saturday, November 23, 2024, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
3. Friday, March 14, 2025, 11:30 am (Bring a brown bag lunch) to 9:00 pm– Saturday, March 15, 2025, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
4. Friday, June 20, 2025, 11:30 am (Bring a brown bag lunch) to 9:00 pm– Saturday, June 21, 2025, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Diversity is a fact.  
Equity is a choice.  
Inclusion is an action.  
Belonging is an outcome.

ARTHUR CHAN



# Illinois Partners In Polycymaking® Schedule



## \* PLUS:

One Two-Day In-Person Session in Springfield, IL.

1. Tuesday, April 1, 2025
2. Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Three Virtual/online “Weekend & Wednesday” sessions.

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Friday, January 10, 2025, 1:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm

Friday, February 14, 2025, 1:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Saturday, February 15, 2025, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm

Friday, May 16, 2025, 1:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm

*Thank you, thank you for my Partners in Polycymaking® experiences. I would never have dreamed of doing some of the things I have done since January 1st. I am working with others on Dignity in Pay, I was interviewed for a CBS WCIA Champion news story on the DHS budget cuts to CILA, an advocacy letter I wrote to the Champaign Urbana News Gazette was published, I was interviewed by Vickie Niswander for Disability Beat on the CILA budget cuts. In the past I didn't feel confident about speaking out on public policy issues. That has completely changed. I don't know where the confidence has come from, but I think you both have a lot to do with it by preparing me with knowledge and resources and practicing the basics of speaking to legislators and building an advocacy support network. –Sibling, Partners Graduate*



*It's hard to put into words how positively Partners has helped me, my daughter, our family, and our community...It showed us that anything and everything is possible for those with disabilities. It has helped remove the micro-filter of discrimination which I may be holding and helped me realize when others are doing it as well. It has truly been life transforming. I wish this was a requirement for every parent who has a child with a disability, almost like a rite of passage.*  
—Parent, Partners Graduate

*Allan Bergman's knowledge and tutelage was exceptional. Jan Bergman's warmth and endearment touched my heart. The faculty advisors were motivational, thoughtful, engaged and connected well with their teams...I will truly miss the experience.*  
—Parent, Partners Graduate





***“If you are on the fence about joining I cannot stress how life altering this opportunity is I encourage you to take the leap it’s truly worth more to me than I can ever express.”***

***–Parent, Partners Graduate***

***“Illinois Autism Task Force, CESSA Appointment and a great start to a relationship with my state Senator. All after PIP. You are changing my life and many other lives as well.”***

***–Self-advocate, Partners Graduate***

***“My project has really become a deep special interest of mine after learning so much about the struggles other people have in healthcare and behavior health and that my journey isn’t unique...PIP has really inspired me to feel like I can make a difference and we need it desperately! This has been beyond amazing, and it really changed how I view the future for myself and my son. I can’t thank you enough for it.”*** –Parent, Partners Graduate

***“Thank you, Jan, and the whole team for dedicating your time, experience and connections to help folks like me, my family, and my classmates. This has been beyond amazing, and it’s really changed how I view the future for myself and my son. I can’t thank you enough.”***

***–Parent, Partners Graduate***

***“Thank You!!!”***

***–Self-advocate, Partners Graduate***

***“Awesome.”***

***–Self-advocate, Partners Graduate***



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