

Frequently Asked Questions

The Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is now accepting applications for the **Partners in Policymaking Class 40** advocacy and leadership training program developed by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities! Partners in Policymaking creates a supportive and educational environment to help individuals change habits, expectations, and attitudes about themselves and their loved ones with developmental disabilities. The free program equips people with leadership skills to impact their communities. People with fascinating stories attend workshops and group interactions in preparation to make a substantial difference.

What is Partners in Policymaking?

Partners in Policymaking was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities 35 years ago and has been offered nationally and internationally. Through informative and interactive sessions, Partners teaches leadership skills and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services that you and/or your family use. Partners is accessible, informative, and empowering. VMRC will provide breakfast and lunch in each session. We are looking for 50 participants for the Class of 2022-2023.

Requirements

To participate, the Partners program requires:

- A commitment to attend all eight sessions. Each session includes both Saturday and Sunday
- 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
- Complete an application, be available for interview if advance in the selection process
- Complete assignments/activities on time

Who can apply?

The program is designed for parents/legal guardians of young children with developmental disabilities and adults with developmental disabilities. You can apply even if you do not know English.

How do I apply?

To request a hard copy application, email Erica Fernandez Zamora at erica@fuerzasunidas.org

For additional questions: Reach out to Erica Fernandez Zamora, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator at erica@fuerzasunidas.org or at 805-395-0541.