



BECOME A DC ADVOCACY PARTNER

Do you want to make a difference?

- Are you a family member of or a young adult with an intellectual/developmental disability?
- Are you interested in improving programs and services for people with disabilities within the District of Columbia?
- Would you like to become more effective in communicating your thoughts and influencing policy on local and national issues?

If this sounds like you, choose to become a member of the inaugural class of *DC Advocacy Partners* (nationally known as *Partners in Policymaking*). *DC Advocacy Partners* is a leadership training program designed for self-advocates and family members of children with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Through this program, you will gain leadership skills and techniques to help develop positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel, and other community leaders. You will become a policy influencer, and will interact with policy makers and policy implementers regarding services that you and/or your family may use. You will be given opportunities to engage in interactive learning experiences and gain valuable information about current issues, services and strategies, as well as policymaking and legislative processes at local and national levels. As a part of this nine-month program, you will become a member of a DC network of community advocates working together to improve opportunities for Washingtonians with disabilities.

What Else Do You Need to Know?

- *DC Advocacy Partners* is completely FREE! Classes, meals, transportation, and respite are at no cost to selected participants. This is possible due to generous support from the DC Developmental Disabilities Council!
- Participants must be family members of OR young adults with an intellectual/developmental disability. They must also be DC residents and Citizens of the United States.
- Participants must be able to make a commitment to attend **nine** day-and-a-half sessions (Fridays and Saturdays) between January 2012 and September 2012.
- Topics to be addressed will include Disability History and Services, Inclusive Education, Employment, Community Organizing, Local and Federal legislation, and more!

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) is seeking a diverse group of highly-motivated and enthusiastic men and women to participate in the first *DC Advocacy Partners* (aka *Partners in Policymaking*) class. Come join the 23,000+ participants across the United States who have agreed that the commitment is well worth the life changes that result from this training program. For further information and to fill out an application, visit www.dcpartners.iel.org. For questions, please contact Jason Farr at farrj@iel.org or 202-822-8405 x145.
