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The Arc Maryland awarded \$100,000 to administer Partners in Policymaking® Program

The Arc Maryland has been chosen by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council to manage the Partners in Policymaking® program (Partners), a statewide initiative, to train individuals with developmental disabilities and families of people with developmental disabilities to become effective advocates for long-term change. The Council will work closely with The Arc Maryland on planning and refinements for Partners, the most prominent leadership development program for individuals with disabilities and their families in Maryland.

The [Partners in Policymaking®](#) program is offered in many states and some other countries. Created by the Minnesota DD Council in 1987, the program was developed to teach people with disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities to become agents of long-term change and become active partners with the policymakers whose decisions will shape their future. The Maryland Partners program will teach best practices and competencies to train the next generation of leaders in the state.

The Arc Maryland previously facilitated Partners with Council funding from 1994-2004 and has a wealth of experience to draw on as they work with the Council to administer and manage the program and adapt the model to make it relevant to the needs of Maryland.

Executive Director of The Arc Maryland Ande Kolp says, "The Arc Maryland is thrilled to partner with the Developmental Disabilities Council and People on the Go as we re-establish the Partners in Policymaking program in Maryland. This grant-funded program helps parents and self-advocates become future policy influencers to ultimately create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities!"

Look for more information and announcements in upcoming months seeking participants (people with developmental disabilities and family members) for this unique, well-regarded training series. For more information about Partners in Policymaking, [read or listen to this terrific NPR story](#) that talks about the program and its tremendous impact!

The Arc Maryland is a leading statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about The Arc Maryland and our work, please view our website at www.thearcmd.org, or contact Executive Director Ande Kolp at akolp@thearcmd.org, phone (410) 571-9320. ###