



## *Partners in Policymaking*

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who is eligible to participate in this program?**

This program is designed for persons with disabilities and parents of your children with developmental disabilities.

#### **What is the time commitment required of those who are chosen to participate in this program?**

Participants are required to attend eight weekend sessions, February-September. The sessions are held on Friday (12-9) and Saturday (8-3:30). Breaks and lunches are included in each weekend session.

#### **Where are the weekend sessions held?**

The 2014 class will be held in Columbia, Mo with the exception of the April session which is held in Jefferson City, MO

#### **Is there a fee to attend Partners?**

There is no charge to attend. The cost for those selected to participate is covered by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

#### **Do I have to pay for my overnight accommodations and travel expenses?**

Overnight accommodations are provided. You will be paired with another class member in a double occupancy room. Mileage reimbursement is also available.

#### **Is there financial assistance available to help pay for respite/child care or personal care attendants?**

The Partners program does not provide on-site services but a reimbursement allowance is provided for those needing assistance.

#### **How are class participants selected? When will I be notified if chosen to be part of the class of 2014?**

A review committee will select participants based on several criteria. Class size is limited to 35. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the first week of January 2014.

#### **Is there work to be done between monthly sessions?**

After each session a homework assignment that builds on and supports the topics addresses is completed by each class member and turned in at the following session.

#### **What are the topics that will be covered during the eight sessions?**

A sampling of topics to be addressed through a variety of informative and interactive sessions includes:

- The history of the parent, self-advocacy and independent living movements
- School and community inclusion
- The importance of whole life planning
- Critical federal/state policies and issues facing people with disabilities
- Issues regarding employment and housing