

Partners in Policymaking



Make a Difference in Your Community. Become a Partner in Policymaking.

More than six hundred Virginia Partners in Policymaking (PIP) alumni, and thousands who have graduated from PIP programs across the country, have learned how to make a difference every day for themselves, their families, and communities.

Individuals participating in PIP attend advocacy training, resource development, and skill building workshops led by state and national experts. Topics covered include the history of the disability rights movement, self-advocacy, independent living, employment, building inclusive communities, natural supports, legislative advocacy, assistive technology, communication, team building, and much more.

You can become involved and make a difference. [Apply today!](#)

Highly Motivated Virginians Encouraged to Apply

Individuals who want to develop or strengthen their advocacy and leadership skills are encouraged to apply. Partners are chosen through a statewide competitive application process. If accepted, attendance is required at all seven training sessions beginning September 2025 and ending April 2026. There are no costs incurred by the applicant to participate in the program.

Eligibility

Residents of Virginia with developmental disabilities (DD), as defined by the Developmental Disabilities Act, and/or parents of young children with DD are eligible to apply for PIP.

Benefits

- Get connected, speak up, educate and communicate on inclusion, quality of education, accessible housing, and supported employment for people with DD.
- Build positive relationships with families, schools, employers, elected officials.
- Learn how to impact local, state, and national policies through advocacy and awareness.
- Improve the lives of people with DD in your local community and in VA.
- Understand the strategies used to support people with DD.

Monthly PIP Sessions begin on Fridays at 1 p.m. and conclude Saturdays at 3p.m. PIP Sessions will be held using the hybrid format (in-person and virtual).

The dates for the 2025-2026 PIP Sessions are listed below:

Friday, September 12, 2025 (In-Person)	Friday, February 6, 2026 (On Zoom)
Saturday, September 13, 2025 (In-Person)	Saturday, February 7, 2026 (On Zoom)
Friday, October 3, 2025 (On Zoom)	Friday, March 6, 2026 (In-Person)
Saturday, October 4, 2025 (On Zoom)	Saturday, March 7, 2026 (In-Person)
Friday, November 14, 2025 (On Zoom)	Friday, April 10, 2026 (In-Person)
Saturday, November 15, 2025 (On Zoom Capitol Day)	Saturday, April 11, 2026 (In-Person Graduation)
Friday, January 2, 2026 (On Zoom)	
Saturday, January 3, 2026 (On Zoom)	

Attendees will be kept fully apprised of potential changes if this schedule changes due to unforeseen circumstances.

Apply Today

This year's PIP in-person sessions will take place at a host hotel to be announced later in the process. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 14, 2025. Individuals are encouraged to use the preferred online application.

Apply online at www.vbpd.virginia.gov/training/partners-in-policymaking/pipapp.

To learn more, visit www.vbpd.virginia.gov/training/partners-in-policymaking.

Contact us at training@vbpd.virginia.gov or call 804-786-0016.

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