

# 2024 Partners in Policymaking Alabama Application

## Partners in Policymaking Alabama 2024 Application

Thank you for your interest in Partners in Policymaking Alabama!

Partners in Policymaking Alabama (PIPA) is a leadership training program designed for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their family members. PIPA believes that the most significant and lasting public policy decisions come from the efforts of those most affected by them.

PIPA graduates will be prepared to work with policymakers and will be empowered to be advocates for change. Upon completion of PIPA, participants will have developed the knowledge and skills needed to be advocates for opportunities and supports that promote self-determination, independence, and integration in all aspects of community life for themselves and others.

Please answer all the questions in this application. Only completed applications will be considered. If you need help filling out the application, call the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Network at 833-258-4784 (toll free).

**Q1 First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2 Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q3 Home Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q4 City** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q5 County** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q6 Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q7 Preferred Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q8 Preferred Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Q9 To ensure that PIPA reflects Alabama's diverse population, please describe yourself:**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | Asian                                  |
| Black/African American         | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander |
| Two or more races              | White                                  |
| Other _____                    |  |

PIPA is an advocacy training program for persons with developmental disabilities and/or their family members. A developmental disability (DD) can be cognitive or physical, or both. A DD is identified before the age of 22. A person with a DD will likely need some support in daily life through his or her lifetime. A DD impacts how a person does major life activities like:

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Self-care                 | Receptive or expressive language |
| Learning                  | Mobility                         |
| Self-direction            | Capacity for independent living  |
| Economic self-sufficiency |                                  |

**Q10 Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you:**

- |                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A person with a DD | A family member of a child with a DD |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|

*Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: = A person with a DD*

**Q11 Please describe your DD and how it affects your daily life.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: = A person with a DD*

**Q12 Will you be using a personal care assistant (PCA) services during the in-person sessions? (Please note: Partners does not provide these services.)**

- |     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

*Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: = A family member of a child with a DD*

**Q13 How old is your child with a DD:**

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0-3 years old   | 4-7 years old   | 8-10 years old  |
| 11-14 years old | 15-20 years old | 21-26 years old |
| 27+ years old   |                 |                 |

*Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: = A family member of a child with a DD*

**Q14 Please identify your child's DD and describe how it affects your child's daily life.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: =  
A family member of a child with a DD

**Q15 Describe any services or supports that your child receives (ex., special education, waiver services, vocational rehabilitation services, assistive technology, etc.).**

Display This Question: If Based on the definition of developmental disability described above, are you: =  
A family member of a child with a DD

**Q16 Will you need reimbursement for respite services so you can participate in the PIPA program?**

Yes

No

**Partners in Policymaking Alabama requires a significant commitment of time, motivation, and energy. The 2024 training program consists of:**

**1) Weekend trainings that are held online (virtually using Zoom video conferencing) and in-person.** The weekend sessions start Friday afternoon and continue through Saturday afternoon. Typical hours range from Friday between 2pm-8pm and Saturday between 8am-3pm. The in-person sessions are held in locations throughout the state and will consist of an overnight stay. Hotel accommodations may be single or double occupancy. (Schedule and locations are subject to change.)

January 19: Virtual (orientation)

January 26-27: Virtual

**February 16-17: In-person, Tuscaloosa**

March 22-23: Virtual

April 26-27: Virtual

**May 17-18: In-person, Birmingham**

June 21-22: Virtual

**July 26-27: In-person, Montgomery (graduation)**

**2) One weekday evening virtual session will be held during each month of the training program.** Weekday sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

PIPA trainees are required to:

- Attend all in-person and virtual training sessions
- Complete all homework assignments for designated training sessions
- Develop and complete an approved Leadership Project

**Are you able to commit to attending all the training sessions and complete the identified assignments and Leadership Project?**

Yes

No

**Q17 Do you need any disability-related accommodations to participate (ex. large print material)?**

Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

No

**Q18 Do you require interpreter services (ex. ASL or other language translation)?**

Yes (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

No

**Q19 Are you currently a member of, volunteer for, or involved with, an advocacy organization?**

Yes (name of the organization(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

No

**Q20 Describe any advocacy experiences that you have had.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q21 Why do you want to participate in the Partners in Policymaking program?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q22 Explain 1 or 2 specific problems or issues facing persons with DD in Alabama that concern you.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q23 How did you learn about the Partners in Policymaking Program?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Letters of Recommendation**

In addition to the application, applicants to Partners in Policymaking Alabama are required to submit two (2) letters of recommendation. This is an important part of the application process, as recommenders often give helpful insights into a candidate's ability to successfully complete the program and benefit from it.

Letters should clearly explain how the recommender knows the applicant and give statements on the applicant's general character and strengths. Professional and personal letters of

recommendation will be accepted. Completed letters of recommendation should be emailed to **bmthoma2@uab.edu no later than December 6th, 2023.** *An application will not be considered complete until both letters of recommendation are received.*

Please provide the name, phone number, and email address for each of the persons providing a letter of recommendation on your behalf in the text box below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT**

**Service Animals (dogs)**

PIPA welcomes service dogs! Service dogs are trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities which increase their owners' safety, mobility, and independence. Service dogs are allowed in public spaces where other animals are restricted. Service dogs are under the control of their owners at all times. For more information about services animals and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), see this [publication](#) from the U.S. Department of Justice. Please note: emotional support animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

**Respite Services**

If you are a family member of a person with a DD and will need respite services so you can participate in PIPA, reimbursement for respite care is available at a maximum rate of \$15 an hour and \$225 per weekend session.

**If You are Employed**

If you are employed, please communicate with your employer to make any needed arrangements to attend all weekday and weekend sessions.

**Computer Technology Requirements**

You will need to have access to a reliable computer so that you can participate in virtual meetings, do coursework, and download/upload files. In addition, you'll need a webcam and microphone and reliable access to the internet. PIPA cannot provide technology to you or provide you with technology help.

**Completed applications, including recommendation letters, are due by December 6, 2023.**

Selected candidates will be *scheduled for an interview between December 8-20* and **receive notice of acceptance by December 22, 2023.**

*Thank you for your interest in Partners in Policymaking!  
If you have any questions, please reach out to the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Network  
833-258-4784 (toll free).*