

Partners in Policymaking Major Project

Partners are expected to complete assignments between sessions and to commit to one major project during their training year. These major projects may include activities such as serving as a legislative intern, serving on a board, organizing a letter writing campaign, or organizing special receptions or town meetings to educate public officials.

Below are just a couple examples of major projects that Missouri Partners have done in the past to create systems change.

- A father who was a police officer talked about his interest in working with his police department, educating the other police officers to increase their awareness of people with disabilities. He learned about the Victimization Task Force that is working to try to reduce the number of people with disabilities who are victimized and began to serve to create change.
- One parent identified the need for her child's school to have a parent support group. She worked to establish a group that worked to have their children included in school.
- A self-advocate co-presented at a couple of conferences on emergency preparedness, including a national Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) conference.
- A couple of Partners have served as legislative interns.
- A self-advocate joined People First and became President.
- One parent was interested in affecting estate planning and became an officer in the Mid-West Family Trust to create change.
- A couple of self-advocates that lived in the same town worked to make one of the stores accessible for their community.
- Several self-advocates who were employed at workshops worked to educate others on the importance of working in the community and were successful in obtaining employment elsewhere.
- One Partner advocated for accessible transportation in his town.
- A couple of parents worked to develop plans and raise funds for an accessible playground in their community.

The major project should be something that you are passionate about and can be tailored to meet your individual strengths and interests. I would be happy to brainstorm and collaborate with you to determine a project and think about how to approach it. Partners can identify and complete major projects on their own or as a group.