



Western Massachusetts Family Leadership Series 2017 Information & Application

Dear Family Member(s),

We are pleased to announce our annual Western Massachusetts Family Leadership Series! This Series focuses on providing families and individuals with the vision, knowledge and leadership skills they need to live in their communities as naturally and typically as desired. Space is limited, so we encourage families with children or adult family members with disabilities to complete and return the enclosed application if they wish to participate in this unique opportunity.

The Family Leadership Series is organized into three, two-day workshops.
Participants are required to attend all sessions.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield MA

Dates: Fri. February 3rd through Sat. February 4th 2017

Fri. March 17th through Sat. March 18th 2017

Fri. May 5th through Sat. May 6th 2017

THE SERIES FOCUSES ON:

- **Initiative and Leadership** – family members are given information on the background of the family support movement, leadership, advocacy and the importance of self-advocacy, how to effectively advocate for change, and ways to influence funding and delivery systems.
- **Creating A Vision** – families are supported to “imagine better” and to create a vision, with and for their family members, that guides their leadership and advocacy.
- **Policy Making at the Local, State and Federal Level** – family members receive information on how to develop networks with professionals and families, and how to use legislative change to procure resources and enact system-wide change.
- **Caring for the Care-Taker** -- the series will conclude with an interactive session on the importance of the care of care-takers, in which a variety of creative strategies will be taught to decrease stress and increase personal satisfaction.

THIS EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY IS FREE FOR PARTICIPANTS! Food and overnight lodging for participants is paid for by the Department of Developmental Services. Scholarships for respite/child care are available. There will be ***NO COST*** to you to attend this series!!

Families who attend the Series are required to do the following:

- 1. Attend each of the three, two-day sessions.**
- 2. Participate in activities and share your own experiences during the sessions.**
- 3. Upon completion of the Series, continue to work to create change for your family and others. We also hope that you will join the MFOFC statewide network, which will provide opportunities to advocate for policies, practices and funding that maximizes our loved ones' support, and their ability to live meaningful and enviable lives in their community.**

Families who have completed the Series over these past years have had a tremendous impact on systems change for families and individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts. Family members have been active in policy and decision making locally, regionally and statewide and some have decided to do legislative advocacy work. Some families have been involved in community organizing and advocacy on a local level. Others have used their talents and skills to create change for their loved-ones with disabilities and/or their families.

We are very excited to be able to organize this event in collaboration with Multicultural Community Services and the Central-West Region of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

We encourage you to return your application as soon as possible. Please note that submitting an application does not ensure acceptance. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt, and you will be notified of your acceptance into this series.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Most Sincerely,



Ingrid Flory

Western Massachusetts Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change
Family Leadership Coordinator, Multicultural Community Services

P.S. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 413-782-2500 x321 or ingridflory@mcsnet.org



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Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email _____

1. Does your family include someone with a disability? Yes No
What is your relationship to that person? _____

2. Please answer the following questions so that we can be sure that our group represents diverse needs and interests:

What is the age of the individual? _____

What is the disability? _____

What services are you, your child, or your family member currently receiving?

- Educational Family Support Vocational
 Medical Respite Care Residential Support
 Other (Please describe):

3. Are you currently involved with any family or advocacy group(s)? Yes No
Have you been involved with family or advocacy groups in the past? Yes No
If yes to either question, please describe your involvement:

4. What specific areas of concern or interest lead you to apply for this Leadership Series?

5. How do you hope to utilize the information learned through this Series?
6. Each session of the Leadership series runs from 9:30AM on Friday until 4:00PM on Saturday with time off for socializing and sleep! Are you able to make a time commitment to the following sessions? **Remember –you must attend all three sessions!**
- Fri. February 3rd through Sat. Feb. 4th 2017:** **Yes** **No**
Fri. March 17th through Sat. March 18th 2017: **Yes** **No**
Fri. May 5th through Sat. May 6th 2017: **Yes** **No**
- These dates **are not** convenient for my schedule. Please mail me an application when you schedule your next Leadership Series.
7. Do you need assistance with traveling to Springfield?
 Yes No
If yes, what is your need? _____
8. Will you need any special considerations (translation, interpretation, accessible room, etc.) in order to participate in the Series? If yes, please describe.
9. Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself and/or your family that would assist us in reviewing your application (other children, family dynamics, family composition, special hobbies/interests, etc.)? **Please use the back of this form if necessary.**
10. Who referred you to this Family Leadership Series?

Thank you for your interest in the Family Leadership Series!

Return your application today to:

Ingrid Flory c/o Multicultural Community Services
1000 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109
Tel: 413-782-2500 x321 or Email: ingridflory@mcsnet.org