



**Dear Family Member(s),**

The Central Region of Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change is pleased to announce our **23<sup>rd</sup> Central Region Family Leadership Series**. The Series focuses on supporting families and individuals to live in their communities as naturally and typically as desired. Applications from families with children or adult family members **of any age who are Department of Developmental Services (DDS) eligible** are encouraged to apply.

The Family Leadership Series has a three-fold purpose. The first is to offer information about family leadership and the history of family involvement in the disability arena. The second is to assist families in creating a vision for their family member. The third is to connect them with information on how families can become a critical voice that influences local and state policy and funding streams for all persons with disabilities.

The Series is designed to provide individuals with disabilities and family members with state-of-the-art information and leadership building skills to effectively impact state and local organizations (schools, human service agencies, government and community) organizations.

**The Family Leadership Series is organized into three, two-day workshops. Participants are required to attend all three sessions.** The following dates are scheduled for the upcoming series:

Friday/Saturday:	January 26 & 27, 2018
Friday/Saturday:	March 16 & 17, 2018
Friday/Saturday:	May 18 & 19, 2018

Location:	Hilton Garden Inn 35 Major Taylor Blvd. Worcester, MA
-----------	---

**The series focuses on:**

**Initiative and Leadership** – family members are given information on the background of the family support movement, leadership, advocacy and the significance 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. What advocacy is necessary to ensure the visions that are developed and what is effective advocacy?

**Policy Making at the Local, State and Federal Level** – family members receive information on how to develop networks with professionals and families, how to access and control resources that affect family stress and satisfaction and how to use legislative change to procure resources.

**This extraordinary opportunity is free for participants. Food and overnight lodging for participants is paid for by the Department of Developmental Services, area organizations and businesses. Families who attend the Series are required to do the following:**

1. To attend all three sessions, Fri/Sat (2) day sessions (staying overnight at the hotel).
2. To participate in activities/experiences during the sessions and to complete assignments/reading between each session.
3. Commit to reach out to their legislators about their need for family support and tell their personal story to their elected officials.



## Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

A statewide, grassroots coalition dedicated to individual and family support

---

We expect that, upon completion of the Series, families will continue to advocate for and work to create change for their families/loved ones and will be willing to help other families in their areas to do the same. We also expect that you will join with MFOFC statewide network, as we all advocate for practices and funding that maximizes our loved ones support and to live meaningful and enviable lives in our/their own 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.

Applications **must be returned by November 17, 2017 to HMEA, Celia Brown, Central Family Leadership Coordinator** at 71 Sterling St., W. Boylston, MA 01583 Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and you will be notified within approximately three weeks. Applications are also available by email at [mfofc.org](mailto:mfofc.org).

**Please note that submitting an application does not ensure acceptance. Upon acceptance, you will receive a confirmation letter.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Celia E Brown, MFOFC Central Region Coordinator  
HMEA  
71 Sterling Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
[celiab@hmea.org](mailto:celiab@hmea.org)  
508.918.4059

[www.mfofc.org/events/fls-central.html](http://www.mfofc.org/events/fls-central.html)  
[www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org)



**APPLICATION  
Central Region Family Leadership Series 21**

Name(s) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

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 we can be sure 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Are any of these or other services being provided by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS)?

Yes                       No

3. Are you currently involved with any family or advocacy group?

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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

A statewide, grassroots coalition dedicated to individual and family support

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 – it is very important that you attend all three sessions!**

January 22 & 23, 2016:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
March 18 & 19, 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
April 8 & 9, 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

7. There is a limited amount of respite funding for childcare available on an **as needed** basis. If you require respite funding in order to attend the Family Leadership Series. Please keep in mind our funding amount may only be able to partially supplement your overall cost. Please indicate whether or not you need this type of support. You will be contacted to discuss your needs.

Yes      No

8. Will you need any special considerations (translation, interpretation, accessible room, reimbursement for extraordinary travel expenses, 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.)?

---

---

---

10. Who referred you to this Family Leadership Series? \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Overnight rooms are based on double occupancy. If you need a single room for medical or personal reasons, please indicate that here.** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in the Family Leadership Series!

**Please return your application quickly by email or postal mail no later than December 31, 2015 to:**

HMEA, Inc.  
Central Family Leadership Series  
71 Sterling Street  
W. Boylston, MA 01583

Email: [familyleadership@HMEA.org](mailto:familyleadership@HMEA.org)      [www.mfofc.org/events/fls-central.html](http://www.mfofc.org/events/fls-central.html)

[www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org)