



MassFamilies

*leadership training for a world
where everyone belongs*

WELCOME TO THE METRO MASS FAMILIES 2025 PORTUGUESE FAMILY LEADERSHIP SERIES

The 2025 Metro Mass Families Portuguese Family Leadership Series is open to Families with loved ones who qualify for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) within the Metro area.*

Dear Families,

We invite you to attend the Metro Portuguese Family Leadership Series. The Family Leadership Series is a training focusing on how and why we advocate for our loved ones who have disabilities. It will be presented in Portuguese.

The Family Leadership Series has a three-fold purpose.

1. Learning the history of the disability and family support and Movement.

Family Leadership is at the core of the disability support movement here in Massachusetts. We will learn about the history of family leadership, advocacy, self-advocacy, where we are now and where we want to go.

2. Creating A Vision

Families will learn how to create a vision with and for their loved one with a disability, towards and enviable life.

3. Policy-Making

Legislative Policy Making and the Critical Role of the Family Voice is very important! We will learn about accessing and influencing, policies and funding streams that work for all.

**The Metro Area Cities and Towns are listed on the last page of this letter.*

The Family Leadership Series and materials are free. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) funds this extraordinary opportunity. However, you must attend all the sessions to participate.

The dates of the 2025 Portuguese Family Leadership Series will be:

Saturday, February 8th & Sunday, February 9th. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, March 8th & Sunday, March 9th. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, April 12th & Sunday, April 13th. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

All of the above sessions will be held at:

The Charles River Center
59 East Militia Heights Drive
Needham, MA 02492

Our last two sessions will be held on May 2nd and 3rd at a nearby hotel on **Friday and Saturday. (This is different from the previous Saturday and Sunday sessions.)****

We will begin our day together at the hotel and then travel to Boston to visit the statehouse and meet legislators. We will have lunch in Boston and then return to the hotel.

On Friday night, after dinner, we would love to give you a free night's stay at the hotel! We hope you can stay and enjoy an overnight "getaway" and relax and refresh! On Saturday, we will review all we learned, and then in the afternoon, we have our graduation!! If you are interested, please fill out the application in the link below. Spaces fill up fast, **so try to reply as soon as possible.**

For more information in English, please get in touch with Mass Families Metro Family Leadership Coordinator Lauri Medeiros at 781-807-1072 or 330-224-8866
Lauri@MassFamilies.org

For more information in Portuguese, please get in touch with Priscilla Bessa at Priscilla Bessa 774-721-3784 ou pbessa@advocatesinc.org

Below is a list of towns and cities in the Metro region.

METRO REGION CITIES AND TOWNS

Allston	Holliston	Sherborn
Ashland	Hopkinton	Somerville
Beacon Hill	Hudson	South Boston
Belmont	Jamaica Plain	Southborough
Boston	Marlboro	Sudbury
Brighton	Mattapan	Walpole
Brookline	Medfield	Waltham
Cambridge	Millis	Watertown
Canton	Natick	Wayland
Charlestown	Needham	Wellesley
Hyde Park	Newton	West Roxbury
Chelsea	Norfolk	Westborough
Chinatown	North Dorchester	Weston
Dedham	South End	Westwood
Dorchester	Northborough	Winthrop
Dover	Norwood	Wrentham
Downtown Crossing	Plainville	
North End	Revere	
East Boston	Roslindale	
Foxboro	Roxbury	
Framingham	Sharon	