Dear *[FIRST_NAME]*,

As May is Mental Health Month comes to a close, NAMI Texas is excited to announce that we will be offering a NAMI Smarts for Advocacy teacher training to be held August 17 to 19, 2018, at the Courtyard Dallas Las Colinas in Irving, TX. The teacher training will equip people who are supported by their local affiliate to bring NAMI Smarts for Advocacy to NAMI members in their local area.

**Travel**
Lodging costs are paid by NAMI Texas for qualified applicants who are selected to participate. Scholarships will cover training materials, lodging (double occupancy) as well as breakfast and lunch during training. Mileage/airfare are not included.

**About NAMI Smarts**
The ability to tell a brief and compelling story that reaches policy makers is at the core of NAMI Smarts for Advocacy. The NAMI Smarts Grassroots Advocacy Training Program, developed by Val Hunter and Angela Kimball, is a modular, practice-based program to help members tell their story with skill and confidence and make an impact through grassroots advocacy.
The NAMI Smarts curriculum consists of five user-friendly 90 minute modules:

* **Module 1: Telling Your Story** - participants learn how to deliver a compelling, one to two minute version of their personal story
* **Module 2: Contacting Your Policymaker** - participants learn how to write attention-getting emails and make phone calls that leave a positive impression
* **Module 3: Meeting Your Policymaker** - participants learn how to orchestrate successful meetings with public officials
* **Module 4: Medication Access: Protecting Choice** - participants learn how to tell a version of their story about medication access and choice that they can use to raise awareness, inspire others and influence decision makers.
* **Module 5: Parity: Fairness in Health Coverage** - participants learn how to fight for better access to mental health and substance use care.

**Want to take part?**
If you’d like to bring NAMI Smarts to your community, ask your affiliate leader to review and sign the accompanying [Affiliate Organization Agreement](mailto:). Each teacher training applicant must fill out and sign a Participant Application and Agreement. This will help ensure that Teacher Training applicants and their affiliates are committed to implementing the program effectively. If your application meets the criteria we will contact you by July 6th, 2018 to discuss next steps.

**Need more information?**
Please email Greg Hansch, public policy director, at [publicpolicy.director@namitexas.org](mailto:publicpolicy.director@namitexas.org)