



**District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council
Developing New Five Year State Plan**

Media Contact:

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The District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is in the process of developing a new Five Year State Plan (fiscal years 2017–2021) that will guide the future direction and goals of the DDC in identifying the needs, activities, and supports as indicated by District residents with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, colleagues and other professionals that support this community.

“The DDC strives to provide opportunities for our citizens with developmental disabilities and their families to break through the visible and unseen barriers placed before them,” Executive Director Mathew McCollough expresses. “When developing the new 5 Year State Plan, the DDC needs to know the expectations from our community in hopes of assisting them with improving their circumstances and placing themselves on a more positive path to what all citizens strive to obtain – *a good life!*”

The DDC is responsible for identifying the most pressing needs in the District. As part of the state plan process, a survey has been developed to solicit feedback from the community. The DDC is asking members of the community to complete the online survey available through the DDC website: <http://ddc.dc.gov/>. Your voice is important! It only takes a few minutes; and all responses are completely anonymous. The DDC will also host several public community forums throughout the year to gather feedback, as well.

The DDC is entirely funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, United States Department of Health and Human Services and is required to submit a new Five Year State Plan to the Federal Government by August 15, 2016.

For additional information, please contact DDC Executive Director Mathew McCollough at 202-724-6744 or mathew.mccollough@dc.gov.

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A developmental disability is a severe and lasting mental and/or physical impairment that occurs prior to age 22 and is likely to continue indefinitely and result in substantial limitations in three or more of the following major life activities: self-care; speaking; understanding language; learning; mobility; ability to make decisions; financial independence; and/or ability to function without individually planned and coordinated services.

The mission of the DDC is to strengthen the voice of people with developmental disabilities and their families in DC in support of greater independence, inclusion, empowerment, and the pursuit of life as they choose. We strive to create change that eliminates discrimination and removes barriers to full inclusion through our advocacy.