



*District of Columbia  
Developmental Disabilities Council*

# FINAL FIVE- YEAR STATE PLAN

FY 2012 – 2016

**Mission:** *The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council of the District of Columbia seeks 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.*

## GOALS

### **AREA OF EMPHASIS: EMPLOYMENT**

Young adults and job seekers with disabilities have meaningful employment opportunities with competitive wages and exhibit their abilities and skills in an inclusive environment working alongside their peers without disabilities.

**Goal 1: Participation in the Disability Mentoring Days** – In recognition of October as “Disability Employment Awareness Month”, this annual program introduces high school and college students with disabilities to potential employment opportunities within the District Government and private and public entities. In collaboration with the American Association of People with Disabilities and the District Government, this program will be conducted during the month of October on an annual basis.

#### Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Years (FY) 12-16: Twenty (20) or more agencies or companies will be identified, participate, and serve as mentor sites
- FY 12-16: Thirty (30) or more DC students with disabilities will be identified and participate in the annual Disability Mentoring Days program

**Goal 2: Participation in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** – SYEP is a locally funded initiative administered by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) that provides District youth ages 14 to 21 with enriching and constructive summer work experiences through subsidized placements in both private and government sectors.

#### Proposed Outcome

- FY 12-16: Ten (10) or more DC students with disabilities will be identified and participate in the annual Summer Youth Employment Program

**Goal 3: Development of DD Council-funded Employment Rights and Training Program** – This program is designed to educate young adults and job seekers with disabilities about their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and acquire knowledge and skills to successfully navigate mock interviews, request reasonable accommodations in work settings, understand the availability and types of assistive technological devices and services, and understand proper work etiquette, etc. In addition, the DC Benefits Counseling Team and other identified stakeholders will be involved in the development of the training portion of the program.

#### Proposed Outcomes

- FY13/14: Develop and implement inaugural Employment Rights and Training Program with ten (10) or more young adults and job seekers successfully completing the year-long program
- FY14/15: Fifteen (15) or more young adults and job seekers successfully completing the year-long Employment Rights and Training Program

**Goal 4: Identify Part and/or Full-time Employment Opportunities** – The DDC will partner and collaborate with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Employment Services, US Business Leadership Network, non-profit and private organizations to identify viable employment and job placement opportunities for Employment Rights and Training Program graduates.

Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Year (FY) 14/15: Five (5) or more Employment Rights and Training Program graduates will participate and obtain part and/or full-time employment opportunities
- FY15/16: Eight (8) or more Employment Rights and Training Program graduates will participate and obtain part and/or full-time employment opportunities
- FY14-16: Identified employers providing part and/or full-time opportunities will receive training on disability sensitivity and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: SELF DETERMINATION AND ADVOCACY**

People with developmental disabilities and their families are: A) Given accurate, timely information to make informed decisions regarding service delivery options available to them; and B) Provided opportunities to exercise their sense of self-empowerment and determination that promote quality assurance inclusive of their independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of community life.

**Goal #1: Policymaking and Advocacy Program (Partners in Policymaking)** – Through the Program, adults with disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities learn how to better utilize their self-advocacy skills to develop and foster positive partnerships with elected officials, school personnel and other individuals who are involved in the policy decisions surrounding services and programs that impact all District residents with disabilities.

Proposed Outcome

- FY12–16: Fifteen (15) or more adults with disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities will successfully graduate from the Program annually

**Goal #2: Development of Self Advocacy Skills** – Provide meaningful activities for individuals with developmental disabilities to demonstrate self-advocacy skills.

Proposed Outcomes

- FY12: Attendance and participation of twenty (20) or more self advocates with developmental disabilities and parents at Alliance for Full Participation Conference
- FY12-16: In collaboration with the Quality Trust, The Arc of DC, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, and University Legal Services, provide technical assistance to fifteen (15) or more self-advocates, parents, and Partners in Policymaking participants and graduates to successfully develop and deliver on policy issues before the Council of the District of Columbia, federal and local administrators, and/or United States Congress annually
- Between FY12-16: Recruit and nominate at least twenty (20) self-advocates, parents, and Partners in Policymaking participants and graduates to serve on various boards and commissions
- FY13-16: DD Council will send five (5) or more self-advocates, parents, and/or Partners in Policymaking participants and graduates to a national self-advocacy conference (i.e.: Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, TASH, etc.) to identify possible best practices to be implemented in DC, pending funding

**Goal #3: Development of Self-Determination Skills** – Provide capacity building opportunities to allow self-advocates and families to exhibit their self-determination skills.

Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Year (FY) 12: Fifteen (15) or more young adults and/or youths with developmental disabilities ages 14 to 30 participating and successfully completing the DDC-funded Self Determination and Advocacy Program
- FY12-13: In collaboration with the National Disability Institute, conduct and implement the Building Economic Strength Together (BEST) Training Program for individuals with developmental disabilities
- FY12-16: Support, sponsor, and/or conduct one (1) or more local self-determination events in the area of rights, accessible transportation, and family and community supports annually
- FY12-16: DD Council attendance and participation at annual Disability Policy Seminar; pending funding

**Goal #4: Voter Registration and Education** – Assist individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in local voter registration and education initiatives.

Proposed Outcomes

- FY12-13: In collaboration with the Board of Election and Ethics and local disability organizations, conduct voter registration campaigns, whenever necessary.
- FY12-13: Provide training for fifty (50) or more individuals with developmental disabilities regarding the electoral process, accessibility options and how to use the voting equipment.

**Goal #5: Emergency Preparedness** – Collaborate with DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, Serve DC, DC Department of Health, and other community -based stakeholders to effectively incorporate the functional and accessibility needs of DC residents with developmental disabilities in emergency planning.

Proposed Outcomes

- FY12-13: Active representation and participation on the DC Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) to address the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities according to the Americans with Disabilities Act during the Presidential Inauguration in January 2013
- FY14-16: Coordinate with the appropriate stakeholders to ensure that emergency preparedness information is available through a variety of venues to reach individuals with developmental disabilities
- FY14-16: Advocate for and secure the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities and families in mock emergency preparedness activities
- FY14-16: In partnership with the appropriate stakeholders, support, sponsor, and/or conduct 6 emergency preparedness trainings

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: HOUSING**

People with developmental disabilities are provided a variety of safe, affordable, and accessible housing options. In addition, this community is given opportunities to learn about and understand the steps to pursue those various options accordingly.

**Goal #1: Advocacy and Education** – Ensure that accurate information is available for individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions regarding housing options available in the District of Columbia.

Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Years (FY) 12/14/16: In partnership with the DC Office of Human Rights, DC Office of Disability Rights, DC Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Equal Rights Center, sponsor and conduct the Fair Housing Act Symposium
- FY13/15: In partnership with the DC Housing Authority, Housing Finance Agency, and other appropriate stakeholders, support, sponsor, and/or conduct two (2) informational sessions/workshops per fiscal year to individuals with disabilities regarding the availability, location, and types of accessible housing in the District. In addition, participants acquire the necessary knowledge to apply and obtain safe, affordable, and accessible housing

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: TRANSPORTATION**

People with developmental disabilities actively collaborate and partner with transportation agencies to improve upon the service quality, accessibility, and affordability of transportation services provided to this community.

**Goal #1: Input and Advocacy:** Actively addressing public transportation and transit issues that impact the daily lives of people with disabilities

Proposed Outcome

FY12-16: One (1) DD Council representative and/or alternate will attend the public meetings for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (WMATA) Accessibility Advisory Committee and MetroAccess subcommittee and bring back relevant information regarding the public transit system to the DD Council

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

Students with developmental disabilities and parents are given accurate, timely information regarding the early intervention and educational services available in the District of Columbia and the applicable federal laws and policies that protect infants, toddler, and students receiving these services.

**Goal #1: Early Intervention Services Awareness** – Connecting parents of infants and toddlers to early intervention services.

Proposed Outcome

- FY13/15: Assist with DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education Division of Early Childhood Education’s outreach efforts and connect families that are eligible for the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C) and Assistance to State for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (Part B) early intervention services in the District

**Goal #2: Parent Advocacy and Supports** – Raising parents’ awareness, understanding, and knowledge regarding their child’s needs, supports, and rights within the education system

Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Years (FY) 12-16: Recruitment and selection of new parents for the Policymaking and Advocacy Program (Partners in Policymaking) annually
- FY14/16: In collaboration with SchoolTalk, Inc. and other community-based organizations, sponsor one Secondary Transition Forum

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: RECREATION**

While multiple factors impact an individual’s satisfaction with life, community service and recreational opportunities are major contributors to improving health and wellness outcomes and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Goal #1: DD Council-funded Community Service and Recreational Opportunities Program** – People with developmental disabilities participate in and benefit from inclusive recreational, social, community service activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

Proposed Outcome

- FY12-13: Forty (40) or more individuals with developmental disabilities participating in community service and recreational opportunities

**Goal #2: Establishing Partnerships with Dreams for Kids and Smithsonian Museum Accessibility Program** – Connecting people with developmental disabilities to community organizations focused on inclusive recreational opportunities.

Proposed Outcomes

- FY14-16: In partnership with the Smithsonian Museum Accessibility Program, refer ten (10) or more community participants to two (2) or more recreation events
- FY14-16: in partnership with Dreams for Kids, refer ten (10) or more community participants to two (2) or more recreation events

**AREA OF EMPHASIS: CROSS CUTTING**

Council activities that impact all areas of emphasis.

**Goal #1: Web-based Community Resources** – Web-based listing of community resources and services available to self advocates and parents.

Proposed Outcomes

- FY14: Developmental Disabilities Council’s website connects families and self-advocates to DC-based services and information
- FY15-16: Revised and maintain web-based resources, as needed

**Goal #2: Public Awareness / Recognition** – Ongoing public awareness activities emphasizing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and service delivery.

Proposed Outcomes

- Fiscal Years (FY) 12-16: DD Council sponsors and conducts one (1) Community Outreach and Feedback Forum annually
- FY12-16: Maintain and offer relevant information through the DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) website
- FY12-16: Produce and disseminate two (2) press releases about the activities of the DDC and people with developmental disabilities annually
- FY12-16: Develop and disseminate DDC newsletter semi-annually
- FY13-16: One (1) DD Council representative will serve on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Committee and support the ADRC's outreach efforts by disseminating materials and connecting families to respite services in the District
- FY14/16: In partnership with the DC Public Libraries Adaptive Services Division and the University Legal Services Assistive Technology Program, conduct one (1) community outreach activity to raise awareness over the types and availability of assistive technologies and adaptive services in the District

**Goal #3: Accomplishments and Achievements** – Acknowledging the outstanding performance of individuals in the field of developmental disabilities.

Proposed Outcome

- FY14/16: Sponsor and conduct one (1) recognition and accomplishments event

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