



# Community Listening Forum

DC Developmental Disabilities Council

FY2027- 2031 State Plan

Friday, September 26, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

DDS Community & Provider Forum

# Today's Facilitators



Alison Whyte, Developmental Disabilities Council

Kali Wasenko, DD Councilmember

# Why We Are Gathered



The Developmental Disabilities Council of the District of Columbia works to **strengthen the voice and presence** of people with developmental disabilities and their families in DC, supporting **greater independence, inclusion, empowerment**, and the pursuit of **life as they choose**.

We strive to create change that eliminates discrimination and removes barriers to achieve full inclusion, diversity, and equity through our advocacy.

# Why We Are Gathered



What would help people with DD and their families live the life they want to live?

Your thoughts, concerns, and ideas will help us decide where to focus our time, efforts, and funding in our next 5-year plan.

We are here to serve you and appreciate what you share with us today.

# Group Agreements



1. All ideas will be considered.
2. Do not share personal information or stories of others after this meeting ends.
3. Everyone deserves respect and a chance to be heard.
4. Share honestly and only what you are comfortable sharing.
5. If we need to move on to the next questions, please use the chat for your questions or comments.
6. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these questions.
7. We will record the session and take notes, and all comments will be recorded anonymously.

# Question 1 (poll and discussion):

You have \$100 to spend as you'd like on the following areas that support people with developmental disabilities. You may divide the funds in a way that works best for you or your family. (Please select your TOP 3)

- Education and Early Intervention
- Employment
- Health and Safety
- Housing
- Transportation
- Self-advocacy
- Services and Supports
- Transition from School to Adulthood
- Supporting Interpersonal Relationships (friends, lovers, coworkers, etc.)

# Question 2:

Now that we have identified priority topics in Q1, what are the ways that people with developmental disabilities can be supported in these topics?

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Ahora que hemos identificado los temas prioritarios en la pregunta n.º 1, ¿cuáles son las formas en que se puede apoyar a las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo en estos temas o áreas principales?

# Question 3:

Think about services that you use now that are most beneficial to you. **Do you have concerns about how those services might change in the next 2-5 years?** If so, please explain.

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Piense en los servicios que utiliza en la actualidad que le resultan más beneficiosos. ¿Tiene inquietudes sobre cómo podrían cambiar dichos servicios en los próximos 2 a 5 años? Si es así, explique.

# Question 4:

What can the DC Developmental Disabilities Council do so that people of all races have access to quality services and can live their best lives?

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¿Qué puede hacer el Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo del DC para que las personas de todas las razas accedan a servicios de calidad y puedan vivir sus mejores vidas?

# Question 5:

Imagine a confident, successful self-advocate. They are carrying a backpack with all the training, tools, experiences, and characteristics that make them a success. What do you think is in their backpack?

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Imagínese una persona que se defiende a sí misma que es segura y exitosa. Dicha persona lleva una mochila con la formación, las herramientas, las experiencias y las características que le permiten tener éxito. ¿Qué cree que hay en su mochila?



# Cont. Question 5:

- a) Being a member of an advocacy group.
- b) Early leadership opportunities.
- c) Mentorship from other self-advocates.
- d) Knowing how to ask for what I need.
- e) Help from people who understand me and my culture.
- f) Supporting friends and family.
- g) Practice talking to elected leaders about issues important to me (like testimony).
- h) Opportunities to teach other people with disabilities about their rights.
- i) Taking control of what services I receive and how to get them.
- j) Participation in social justice movements.
- k) Seeing people with disabilities as leaders.
- l) Improve my leadership and advocacy skills
- m) Others (please use the chat)



# Summary of Discussion



Image description: Six disabled people of color smile and pose in front of a concrete wall. Five people stand in the back, with a Black woman in the center holding up a chalkboard sign that reads "disabled and here." A South Asian person in a wheelchair sits in front. **Credit:** Disabled and Here Project.

# Keep Sharing Your Thoughts! Community Survey



English

Scan QR Code Here



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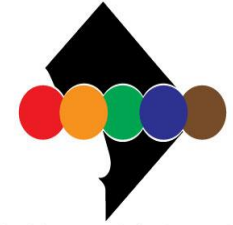
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Español

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# A Special Thank You to the DD Council's Partners and Collaborators!



2027-2031 DDC STATE PLAN  
You Speak. We Listen. We Create Change.

!!!/CentroNía



Ethiopian and Eritrean  
Special Needs Community



Family  
Support  
Council



Project Action!

The DC  
Supporting  
Families  
Community  
of Practice



The DD Council  
State Plan  
Committee



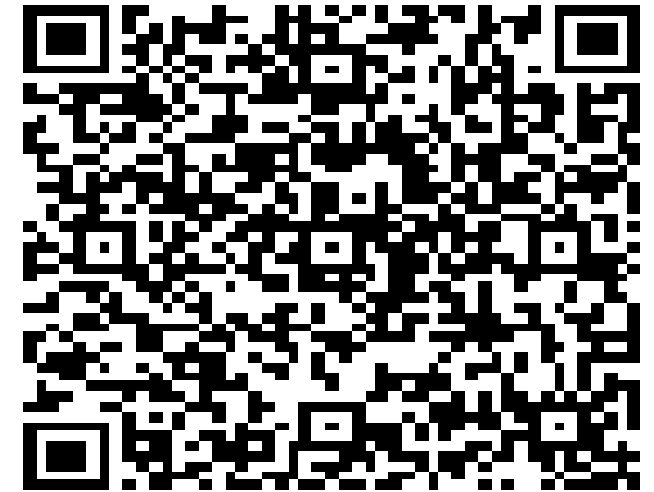
What did you think of today's listening forum?"

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**We would appreciate your feedback!**

Please use the following link:

<https://s.zoom.us/j/91912121212>



English  
Scan QR Code Here



# Thank You!

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¡Gracias!

## **DC Developmental Disabilities Council**

### **Contact Information**

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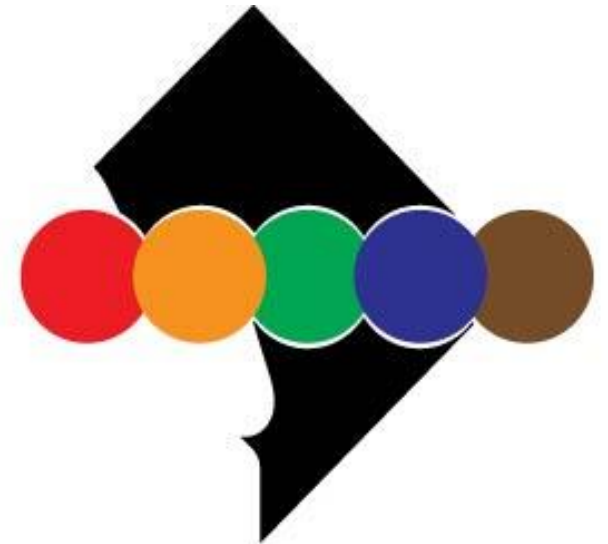
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## **2027-2031 DDC STATE PLAN**

You Speak. We Listen. We Create Change.

