



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department on Disability Services

PRESS RELEASE

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(Washington, D.C.) -- The Department on Disability Services, Department of Disability Administration (DDA), in partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) today was awarded the *National Community of Practice: Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan* grant. This grant is funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) and is managed by a partnership between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development (UMKC-IHD), Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

The National Community of Practice: Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan grant provides funding and technical support to develop systems of support for families throughout the lifespan of their family member with an intellectual or developmental disability. “The overall goal of supporting families, with all of their complexity, strengths and unique abilities is so they can best support, nurture, love, and facilitate opportunities for the achievement of self-determination, interdependence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life for their family members” — Building a National Agenda for Supports to Families with Member with I/DD, 2011.

The District is one of only five states selected to participate in the *National Community of Practice: Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan* project. Through this grant, DDA and the DD Council will convene a team that includes self-advocates, families, and other advocates and stakeholders to develop and implement an action plan that ultimately will shape policies and programs that support families. DDA and the DD Council will work the other Community of Practice states to develop best practices that will build strong sustainable systems of family support system in the District.

