



ADVOCACY:

Enhancing Advocacy and Public Policy Work: People on the Go

LOCATION: Statewide**FUNDING:** \$120,000

GOALS

- **Council Goal:** People with developmental disabilities effectively advocate for themselves and others and influence issues that are important to them.
- **Goals of Initiative:** To support people with disabilities to impact public policy, and strengthen a self-directed, active, effective, and sustained statewide self-advocacy network that is focused on key issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and other related challenges.

OVERVIEW

People on the Go of Maryland will enhance its outreach and support to local self-advocacy groups to build a strong, sustainable network of advocates across Maryland by providing training, technical assistance, and ongoing support. People on the Go will continue to impact a wide range of issues including transition, employment, and person-centered planning by providing expertise to state agencies, as well as through legislative testimony.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Expand efforts to provide technical assistance to local self-advocates in order to build a robust, sustainable network of local self-advocacy groups that are effective in educating elected officials and policymakers through training and follow-up at three, six, and 12-month intervals.
- Increase the knowledge of people with developmental disabilities about laws, programs, practices, and regulations that affect their lives.
- Train and support people with disabilities to serve on boards and committees.
- Influence legislation and regulations by participating on state boards and committees, testifying before legislative bodies, and providing expertise to groups throughout Maryland.

OUTCOMES

- People with developmental disabilities have an increased knowledge of advocacy and public policy, and report increased participation in advocacy and leadership activities.
- People on the Go will improve policies, legislation, and programs that affect the lives of people with developmental disabilities.