



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Member

Position Description

Council Vision

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council envisions a state where all people with developmental disabilities exercise control over their lives, reach their full potential, and lead healthy, fulfilling lives with enriching relationships.

Council Mission

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council's mission is to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, empowering people, and promoting innovation.

Responsibilities

- Commit to a Council term of usually five years.
- Attend Council member orientation.
- Become familiar with the Council's vision and mission statements; the Developmental Disabilities Act; the Council's Five Year State Plan, and grants and other projects. Prepare for and actively participate in quarterly Council meetings.
- Attend 50% of meetings in a 12-month period.
- Serve on a workgroup (no more than 2 hours and occur in person or as conference calls). The frequency varies but there may be about 3-4 workgroup meetings per year.
- Represent a unified and consistent voice when communicating the Council's position, attitudes, and concerns to the Governor, legislators, policy makers, the public, and the media.
- Help develop the Council's long-range goals and objectives in our Five Year State Plan.
- Help monitor the Council's progress on the State Plan.
- Help develop the Council's public policy positions and strategies.

- Assist with developing, selecting, monitoring, and evaluating Council initiatives.
- Provide information on issues that impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Abide by all Council policies.
- Other activities as related to Council functions.

Qualifications

- Members must be a person with a developmental disability, family member of a person with a developmental disability or a person with a developmental disability who is now or once was institutionalized.
- Commitment to the Council's mission and its federal law.
- Interest and willingness to serve on the Council and fulfill the responsibilities listed above.
- Knowledge of, and personal or professional experience with, issues that impact people with developmental disabilities.
- Ability to work cooperatively with others and place the interests of the Council above personal concerns or differences of opinions.

The Council will seek balance among people representing diverse types of developmental disability, geographic areas, race, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and gender.