



CURRENT INITIATIVES

ADVOCACY

Enhancing Self-Advocacy and Public Policy Work *People On the Go of Maryland (POG)*

POG, a group of advocates with developmental disabilities, is supported by the Council and the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD). The group advocates for people with developmental disabilities and educates people with developmental disabilities through leadership trainings and mentoring opportunities, and provides support and training to local self-advocacy groups. The group works to achieve improvements in policies, practices, services and laws in Maryland to ensure people with disabilities have equal rights and opportunities.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Eastern Shore LEADers *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

This project provides leadership training on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for parents of children with developmental disabilities and ensures ongoing engagement by participants in advocacy and leadership.

Parent Leadership Learning Parties *Ready At Five*

Ready At Five is expanding its family engagement efforts through this initiative by sponsoring and supporting eight Parent Leadership Learning Parties (PLLPs) statewide that are designed specifically to include parents and caregivers with developmental disabilities and delays.



Partners in Policymaking® The Arc Maryland

The Council is funding the Partners in Policymaking® program (Partners) to train individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to become effective advocates for long-term change. Partners is the most prominent leadership development program for individuals with disabilities and their families in the country. The Council works closely with The Arc Maryland, which manages the program through this grant and provides matching funds.

EMPLOYMENT

Transforming and Improving Practices through Customized Technical Assistance, (TIP grants) Service Providers throughout Maryland

TIP grants provide funding to improve employment outcomes of people with developmental disabilities by funding customized technical assistance for community service providers licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The grants allow providers to improve the way services are provided, building their capacity so that more people with developmental disabilities are supported to obtain and keep the meaningful work they want in their communities and to have meaningful days when not working. The Council has funded three rounds of TIP grants, in partnership with Maryland Works, to a total of 34 organizations.

Currently funded organizations include: *Delmarva Community Services, Gallagher Services, New Horizons Supported Services/Compass, Inc., The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA), Penn-Mar Human Services; Spectrum Supports, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Jewish Community Services, The Arc Carroll County, The League for People with Disabilities, SEEC: (Seeking Employment, Equality, and Community for People with Developmental Disabilities), and Community Options.*



Employment Publication: Success Stories
In-house initiative

The Council is developing a publication that highlights the employment success stories of people with developmental disabilities, sharing the perspectives of people with disabilities, families, direct support professionals, and employers. By addressing topics such as safety, dignity of risk, and opportunities in rural areas, the publication will allay fears and negative perceptions and help to improve attitudes about employment and meaningful opportunities for people with developmental disabilities throughout the entire state.

CHILD CARE

Building Capacity through Technical Assistance
Abilities Network

This initiative provides intensive, customized technical assistance to child care providers throughout Maryland to increase their skills, knowledge, and capacity. As a result of this investment, more children with developmental disabilities and special health care needs will be in child care settings alongside children without disabilities. Abilities Network will increase the capacity of child care providers statewide using three major components: Strategy, Action, and Reflection (STAR). The project uses reflective coaching and requires the participation of child care program directors and classroom staff so the strategies learned are retained and benefit many children. At least 225 technical assistance sessions will be facilitated.

SIBLING SUPPORT

Sibling Conference
In-house initiative



The MD DD Council is sponsoring a Sibling Conference in collaboration with the DC Developmental Disabilities Council on March 30, 2019. The conference will address the needs to young sibs, teen sibs and adult sibs. The goal is to help siblings of people with disabilities to listen, learn and connect with each other.

RAISING EXPECTATIONS

Awareness Campaign In-house initiative

The purpose of this initiative is to identify challenges and create strategic messaging to increase expectations of people with developmental disabilities. The Council convened a think tank of people with developmental disabilities, professionals, and educators to discuss ideas surrounding expectations and worked with a designer/communications professional to develop an awareness campaign to spread the message of increasing expectations of people with developmental disabilities.