



ADVOCACY:

Enhancing Advocacy and Public Policy Work People on the Go of Maryland

LOCATION: Statewide**FUNDING:** \$100,000; \$33,000 match

GOALS

Council Goal: People with developmental disabilities effectively advocate for themselves and others and influence issues that are important to them.

Council Objectives:

Support People on the Go of Maryland and local self-advocacy groups to be strong, effective, and influential.

Support opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership training to other individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders. Support and expand participation of people with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Goals of Initiative: Build collaborations, create policy, and strengthen advocacy groups statewide through continued efforts to support advocate leaders through technical assistance, trainings, and in-person experiences.

OVERVIEW

People on the Go of Maryland expands its outreach and support to local advocacy groups to build a strong, sustainable network of advocates across Maryland by providing training, technical assistance, and ongoing support. People on the Go continues to impact a wide range of issues including transition, employment, and person-centered planning by providing expertise, comments, and feedback to state agencies, and provides testimony about legislation that affects people with developmental disabilities.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Increase the knowledge of people with developmental disabilities about laws, programs, practices, and regulations that affect their lives.
- Train and support people with developmental disabilities to serve on boards and committees.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance and training to increase effective participation in local advocacy groups.
- Educate policy makers, legislators, and advocates about issues affecting people with developmental disabilities.
- Collaborate with cross-disability organizations to shape public policy.

- 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 with developmental disabilities meaningfully participate in cross-disability and cultural diverse boards, committees, and coalitions.
- Local advocacy groups will increase their activities as a result of technical assistance and training provided by People on the Go.
- People on the Go will improve policies, legislation, and programs that affect the lives of people with developmental disabilities.