

# Maryland Development Disabilities Council

## IMPORTANT ISSUES

2021

### What is the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council?

- We are an organization that works to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families. We want people with developmental disabilities to have good lives.
- Intellectual disability, autism, and cerebral palsy are examples of developmental disabilities.
- We work closely with people with developmental disabilities and their families. They are leaders in our organization.

Most people call us the DD Council.

### How does the DD Council work to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families?

We work to improve laws, policies, and services in Maryland.

- Laws and policies are rules we have to follow.
- For example, they tell us what services people can get from the state to help them at home, in school, and in the community.

When this happens, people with disabilities have more chances to:

- Live where they want
- Go to school with their friends and neighbors who do not have disabilities
- Get a job
- Have the support they need

This means they have good lives and are happy.

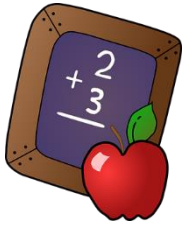
### Who does the DD Council work with?

We work with a lot of different people. Here are some examples:

- The Governor
- The state legislature. The state legislature is made up of senators and delegates from every county in Maryland. People voted for them. They make the state laws we have to follow.
- State government agencies like the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Department of Education.

# These are the issues the DD Council is working on in 2021

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## Education

We are working to make sure:

- Children with disabilities get support that helps them do well in school.
- Schools teach students with and without disabilities together as much as possible.



## Employment

We are working to make sure:

- People have support to get jobs they like.
- Everyone who wants a job gets a job.



## Housing

We are working to make sure:

- People have choices about where to live that do not cost too much money.
- More people can find a place to live that they like.



## Transportation

We are working to make sure:

- Everyone can find the transportation services they need.
- Transportation comes on time and doesn't cost too much money.



## Health Care

We are working to make sure:

- People can see a doctor, dentist, or other health care provider when they need to.
- Those services take good care of people with disabilities.



## Technology

We are working to make sure:

- People with disabilities have technology when they need it. Technology means things like computers, internet service, and programs like Zoom. This makes it possible for people to visit with their doctor from home. It also makes it possible for people to get information and some supports they need.



## College

We are working to make sure:

- People with developmental disabilities who want to go to college have more choices to pick from.



## Supports & Services

We are working to make sure:

- Families of people with developmental disabilities get more support.
- Everyone with a developmental disability who leaves high school gets the support they need to get a job or participate in other daytime activities.
- The Developmental Disabilities Administration gets more money to pay for services. If this happens more people get support at home, at work, and in the community.
- Agencies that support people in the community get enough money to pay for good staff.



## Making Decisions

We are working to make sure:

- People have support from people they know and trust when they need help making decisions. This is called “supported decision making.”



## Institutions

We are working to make sure:

- Everyone living in an institution in Maryland moves to the community. And they get good support in the community.



## Civil Rights

We are working to make sure:

- People with developmental disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.
- People with disabilities help train police officers, paramedics, and other people who help in emergencies.