



Current Projects

These are the projects the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is funding

Advocacy



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

People on the Go of Maryland (POG) is a self-advocacy group led by people with developmental disabilities. This grant makes it possible for POG to:

- Advocate for change with state agencies, the state legislature, and the community.
 - Provides training, assistance, and support to a network of local self-advocacy groups.
- This helps them be strong advocates.



Expectations Matter: “My Life, My Plan, My Choice” *Shared Support Maryland, Inc.*

Person-centered planning helps people get the services and supports they want and need. This project is helping people with developmental disabilities and their family members:

- Understand the person-centered planning process used by the Developmental Disabilities Administration.
- Be actively involved in their person-centered planning.

The project is doing this by providing information, training, and support.



Project Learn

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

This project is training 20 middle and high school students with developmental disabilities. It is also developing resources that will be available online and in different languages. The project will help students with developmental disabilities and

their families advocate for what they want and need. This will help them learn and succeed.

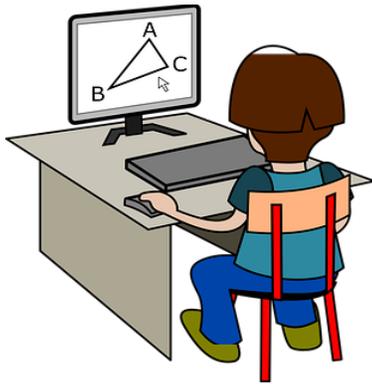
Community Supports



Learning the Basics: Strength-Based Training on Developmental Disabilities

Abilities Network, Project ACT

This project is training people who work in child care about how to support children with developmental disabilities. Project Act is developing 6 trainings about different developmental disabilities. They will test the training with 20 to 40 child care professionals. They will use what they learn to make the training better. Then the trainings will be available to child care providers statewide. As a result, more children with developmental disabilities will get the support they need. They will be able to learn, play, and grow in child care programs with children who do not have disabilities.



Assistive Technology Supports for Students *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

COVID closed schools and students are learning from home. Some students with developmental disabilities need help to successfully learn from home. This project is giving students things like accessible apps, specialized keyboards, touchscreens, and braille displays to help them learn.

This project will see what works to help more students in the future.



Engagement and Connection during COVID *The Arc Maryland*

This project is helping people with developmental disabilities stay active and connected to other people during COVID. They are getting tablets, like iPads. This is making it possible for them to do things like:

- Take fitness, cooking, and art classes.
- Visit with friends and family using programs like Zoom.

As a result, they are less alone and better supported.



Addressing the Technology Needs of People with Developmental Disabilities *Service Providers throughout Maryland*

COVID shut down most in-person activities. As a result, provider agencies had to find new ways to support people.

This project is providing iPads so people with developmental disabilities can:



- Receive employment support and training.
- Participate in activities like exercise classes, music classes, and advocacy sessions.
- Stay in touch with friends and family.

time for change

Rebuilding DDA Providers with Technical Assistance

Penn-Mar Human Services and TransCen Inc.

This project will improve the way community service providers support people with developmental disabilities. This will make it possible for more people to live their lives the way they want. Two agencies with a lot of experience will help 5 service providers. They will:

- Provide assistance and training,
- Help the staff at the agencies learn from each other,
- Help the providers develop plans to make the changes they want, and
- Train and support people with developmental disabilities and family members to tell the providers what they need and want.

Other providers in Maryland will learn from this project. This will help them change how they support people.



Online LEAD Program Regional Pilot for Fire/EMS

Loyola University of Maryland

This project is developing an online training for fire fighters, emergency medical professionals, and others that respond to emergencies. They are from Howard and Montgomery counties. The training will help



them understand the best ways to behave and communicate with people who have developmental disabilities. People with developmental disabilities are trainers in the program.



TerpsEXCEED

Center for Transition and Career Innovation, University of Maryland – College Park

This project is developing a new college program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Students with I/DD will:

- Take classes and do activities with students that do not have disabilities.
- Take some classes that are just for students with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities.
- Use the same buildings and services the other students use.



#ExpectationsMatters Small Grants

Sunflower Bakery, Howard County Autism Society, Towson University, and Spring Dell Center

Expectations are what we think people can do. When we think people with and without disabilities can live, learn, work, and play together, it is more likely to happen. That’s why expectations matter. These small grants are making

videos about people with developmental disabilities. The videos will increase the number of people that understand that people with developmental disabilities can do many things. This includes support staff, teachers, employers, and community members.



Employment



Eastern Shore Provider Transformation Community of Practice

United Needs and Abilities, Inc.

This project includes 12 service provider agencies that support people with developmental disabilities. They work in 9 counties on the Eastern Shore. This project is helping them get better at providing employment supports. They are supporting each other to make changes. They are getting help from people with a lot of experience. As a result, more people with developmental disabilities should get jobs.

Leadership Development



300 Leaders

Tsinat Institute

This is a leadership program for youth with developmental disabilities. They are from Ethiopian communities in Montgomery County and nearby areas. Youth are developing skills so they can:

- Contribute to their communities.
- Be better prepared for employment when they get older.



Partners in Policymaking *The Arc Maryland*

This is a leadership program for people with developmental disabilities and their families. It is teaching people how to advocate for what they need in their own lives. It also is teaching them to be leaders that bring about change that helps other people.



Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

Parents serve on different committees that help make services for children better. This project is training them to be strong committee members. If they are strong members, more children will get the supports and services they need.



LEADers for Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

Parents' Place is training and supporting parents of children with developmental disabilities to be strong advocates and leaders. The focus is on Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.



Resources

The following resources were developed by the Council. They are available on the Council's website or by contacting the Council.



Planning Now

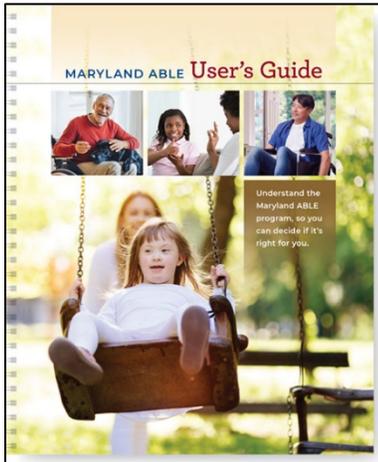
This is a guide for families of people with developmental disabilities. It helps people with disabilities and their families plan for the future.



Developmental Disabilities Administration Fact Sheets

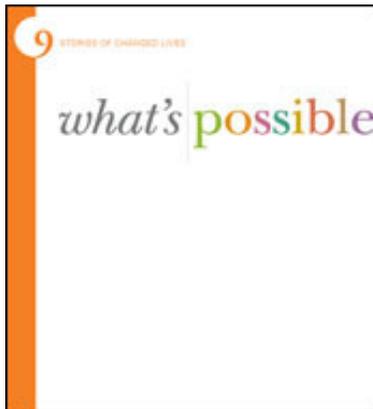
These 4 fact sheets have information about the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The information is easy to understand. The fact sheets are about:

- DDA
- The DDA waiting list
- Coordinators of Community Services
- Person Centered Planning



User Friendly ABLÉ Guide

This is a guide with a lot of information about the Maryland ABLÉ program. Maryland ABLÉ is a savings program. It helps people with disabilities and their families save money. They can use the money to improve their health, independence, and quality of life.



What's Possible: 9 Stories of Changed Lives

This is a short booklet. It tells the stories of 9 people who used to live at Rosewood Center. Rosewood was an institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their stories show how their lives got better when they moved to the community.



What Matters

This is a short booklet. It tells the stories of 9 people with disabilities. Their stories show how planning and the right support helps them live good lives.