



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

Location: Statewide

Funding: \$120,000 | \$40,000 match

GOAL

Support People on the Go and local self-advocacy groups to be successful advocates that bring about positive change for people with developmental disabilities.

SUMMARY

People on the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy group led by people with developmental disabilities. With support from the Council and the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, POG works to improve issues that affect people with developmental disabilities. This includes transition from school to adult life, employment, person-centered planning, and other important issues. POG educates and advocates for change with state agencies, the state legislature, and the community.

POG also provides training, assistance, and support to a network of local self-advocacy groups. This helps them be informed about issues, build skills, speak for themselves, and be strong advocates.

ACTIVITIES

- Educate state agencies, legislators, and advocates about issues affecting people with developmental disabilities.
- Improve legislation and regulations (rules) by:
 - participating on state boards and committees,
 - testifying before lawmakers, and
 - providing information and advice to groups throughout Maryland.

- Inform people with developmental disabilities about laws, regulations, and programs that affect their lives.
- Provide assistance and training to local advocacy groups.
- Collaborate with cross-disability organizations to improve public policy.
- Train and support people with developmental disabilities to serve on boards and committees.
- Make POG's website easier to use for people with developmental disabilities.
- Develop and carry out a communications plan to use social media better.
- Update POG's strategic plan. This plan has goals and activities to guide POG's work.

OUTCOMES

- Policies, laws, and programs that affect people with developmental disabilities are improved.
- People with developmental disabilities have a better understanding of advocacy and public policy.
- More people with developmental disabilities participate in advocacy and leadership activities.
- More people with developmental disabilities actively participate in committees and coalitions that are diverse. This means they include people with different types of disabilities and from different backgrounds.
- People with developmental disabilities use more online resources and trainings developed by POG.
- POG uses its new strategic plan to guide its work. As a result, there are more advocacy leaders in Maryland.