



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

**2022-2026
State Plan Overview
Easy Read Version**



What is the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council?



We are an organization in Maryland. We are called “the DD Council” or “the Council.”



We work to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families. We want people with developmental disabilities to have good lives.



People with developmental disabilities and their family members are leaders in our organization.



The Council’s funding comes from the federal government. We use our funding to work on our goals.

What is the Council’s State Plan?



Our goals are described in a plan we develop every 5 years. It is called our “State Plan.” Goals describe what the Council wants to see happen.

How does the Council pick the most important issues to work on?



We get information and ideas from a lot of different people. This includes: people with developmental disabilities, family members, state agencies, advocates, service providers, and community members.



We read reports and other written information.



We think about all the information and ideas to decide what needs to happen to make life better for people with developmental disabilities.



We then pick our goals and decide how to work on them. Our staff, Council members, and grantees work on different activities to help us reach our goals.

What are the Council's Goals?



Goal 1: People with developmental disabilities are leaders and advocates.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Give a grant (money) to People On the Go of Maryland to help it be a strong advocacy organization and train more advocates.
- ✓ Support the Youth Leadership Forum.
- ✓ Help people with developmental disabilities serve on committees and coalitions that include people with different types of disabilities and people from different backgrounds.



Goal 2: People with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to live the lives they want.

To make this happen, the Council will fund projects and activities that:

- ✓ Help people with developmental disabilities and their families become strong advocates and leaders.
- ✓ Help people with developmental disabilities and their families learn new things and develop new skills.
- ✓ Help the community understand and support issues that are important to people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- ✓ Help people with developmental disabilities and their families in poor areas of Maryland get more information and training. This includes people who are African American, Black, Hispanic/Spanish/Latinx, and Asian-American.



Goal 3: People with developmental disabilities and their families have access to their communities, and services and supports. They are treated with dignity and respect.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Advocate for better supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- ✓ Improve policies, programs, and activities that make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to have the same opportunities in life that other members of the community have. This includes housing, transportation, healthcare, and recreation.
- ✓ Improve child care and education services and supports so all children play and learn together.

- ✓ Increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to work and learn about different kinds of jobs.
- ✓ Improve how the criminal justice system works with people with developmental disabilities.



If you have questions:

Go to our website at md-council.org

Call us at 410-767-3670 or 800-305-6441