



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

2022 Public Policy Priorities

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

This is how we do that when we work with the Governor, state government, and state legislators

Education	Community Supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote policies and practices that improve outcomes for students with disabilities. This means they have access to the general education curriculum, appropriate assessments, and the services and supports they need to succeed.Advocate for school policies and practices that help staff understand and respond to trauma. This creates a positive, safe, and supportive school where students learn, and they are less likely to go to prison after school. <i>Trauma is when something bad happens. It may have a lasting impact on a person.</i>Advocate for policies and practices that better support children and youth with developmental disabilities and their families during all academic transitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for funding to reduce the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) waiting list for community services. Over 4,300 people are currently waiting.Ensure DDA funding is sufficient to provide support to all "transitioning youth" – young adults with developmental disabilities who need support to get a job, go to college, and participate in their communities.Advocate for service provider rates that ensure high quality supports.Improve services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.Support initiatives that increase opportunities for people to live, work, and meaningfully engage in their communities.
Transportation	Healthcare
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for policies and funding that increase the availability of reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare policies and services that meet the needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.
Criminal Justice	Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for improvements in policies and practices within Maryland's jails and prisons so they are clear, consistent, and provide each person with developmental disabilities the support they need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead efforts to increase access to technology for people with disabilities. They do not have the same access to technology as other people and this negatively affects them.

Employment	Family Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to have jobs they want, in the community, alongside co-workers without disabilities. • Increase support for community-based employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability of formal and informal supports to families of people with developmental disabilities. • Support efforts to increase access to paid family and medical leave. • Advocate for more funding for the Autism Waiver, and more training and support for providers so more children and their families get the services they need.
Institutions	Leadership and Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the closure of all state-funded institutions for people with intellectual disabilities. • Support expansion of high-quality community options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people with developmental disabilities to develop advocacy and leadership skills so they can play a meaningful role in shaping public policies, programs, and services that affect their lives.
Supported Decision Making	Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the use of Supported Decision Making, which is a way for people with disabilities to make choices about their lives with support from a network of people they know and trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for more rental housing options that are affordable to people with disabilities and allow people with developmental disabilities to live in the community with people without disabilities.
Early Childhood Education	Civil Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to early childhood education where children with disabilities learn and play alongside children without disabilities and are prepared to transition to school. Advocate for the services and support necessary to make this possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for laws and policies that ensure people with developmental disabilities have the same rights as other Marylanders.
Post-Secondary Education	<p><i>Issues are listed in random order</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of post-secondary education programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities meaningful access to academics and campus life. This includes dual enrollment programs. 	<p><i>Issues are listed in random order</i></p>

The Council can provide information, perspective, ideas, and analysis about how legislation will affect people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is a statewide organization established through the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. One of the Council's roles is to inform legislators about how legislation and budget decisions affect the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.