



Current Projects

ADVOCACY

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

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. 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.

Project Learn

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

This project will train 20 middle and high school students with developmental disabilities. The goal is to give them information and skills to:

- take control of their Individual Education Programs (IEP) and 504 plans, and
- advocate for their educational needs.

The project will also develop information and resources about IEPs and 504 plans.

These are formal plans that schools develop to give students with disabilities the support they need. The resources will be available online and in different languages. As a result of this project, more students will get the services and supports they need to learn and succeed.



CHILD CARE

Learning the Basics: Strength-Based Training on Developmental Disabilities Abilities Network, Project ACT

This project will train and support child care professionals about how to support children with developmental disabilities. Project Act will develop 6 trainings about different developmental disabilities. They will test the training with 20 to 40 child care professionals and make improvements, if necessary. Project ACT will work with the Office of Child Care to “license” the training. This will make it possible for professionals to get credit for taking the trainings. The trainings will be available to child care providers statewide. As a result, more children with developmental disabilities will get the support they need to learn, play, and grow in child care programs with other children.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Rebuilding DDA Providers with Technical Assistance Penn-Mar Human Services and TransCen Inc.

Community service providers across the state responded to COVID by developing different and creative ways to support people. This project builds on that work. It will improve the way people with developmental disabilities receive services and supports. As a result, more people will live the lives they want. To make this happen, Penn-Mar and TransCen will:

- Provide assistance and training to providers.
- Create a learning group to help the providers learn from each other.
- Help the providers develop and put in place plans to guide the change they want.
- Train a group of people with developmental disabilities.
- Support people with developmental disabilities and family members to share



- input with providers about what they need and want.
- Share the information learned from the project at a statewide conference.

TerpsEXCEED Peer Mentoring Training and Certification Program
Center for Transition and Career Innovation, University of Maryland – College Park

The Center for Transition and Career Innovation developed a new inclusive college program, TerpsEXCEED. This project will expand and manage the TerpsEXCEED Peer Mentoring Training and Certification Program. Peer mentoring is important to the success of the students in TerpsEXCEED.

As a result of this project:

- More students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will attend inclusive college programs,
- More students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have community jobs they choose, and
- More students without disabilities will support the success of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

300 Leaders ***Tsinat Institute***

The Tsinat Institute will provide more leadership development to youth with developmental disabilities from Ethiopian communities. They will be from Montgomery County and nearby areas. Youth will develop social and leadership skills that will prepare them to contribute to their communities. It will also help them be better prepared for employment when they get older. They will also provide awareness training about developmental disabilities to community leaders.



Partners in Policymaking® ***The Arc Maryland***

Partners in Policymaking® (Partners) is in its 4th year. It is a leadership developmental program designed for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The program prepares participants to advocate for what they need in their own lives. It also prepares them to be leaders that bring about change that helps others. This year The Arc Maryland and People on the Go of Maryland worked together to create Empowering Partners. It will provide more support to people with developmental disabilities who are in the Partners program. The Partners program is a series of ten sessions and other learning activities. Topics include: history of the disability movement, self-advocacy, inclusive education, assistive technology, legislative process, and advocacy. Partners graduates are prepared and supported to take action after they graduate. They support and learn from each other to bring about change.



RESOURCES

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

COVID Fact Sheets

In partnership with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Council created 9 plain language fact sheets about COVID. They are:

- Testing
- High Risk Health Conditions
- Vaccines
- Vaccinations at Home
- Vaccines for Children Ages 6 months to 5 Years
- Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11
- Monoclonal Antibody Treatment
- Booster Shots
- Second Booster Shots

The fact sheets are available in 12 different languages.

Planning Now

Planning Now is an easy-to-use guide for families of children and adults with developmental disabilities. It includes information about government benefits, wills, trusts, taxes, and other things to help people plan. This publication is available in English and Spanish.



Developmental Disabilities Administration Fact Sheets

These 4 fact sheets provide information about the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) that is easy to understand. They include:

- DDA Overview
- Waiting List
- Coordinators of Community Services
- Person Centered Planning

These fact sheets are available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

User Friendly ABLE Guide

This easy-to-use guide helps people with disabilities and their families understand the Maryland ABLE program. Maryland ABLE is a savings program. It makes it possible for people with disabilities and their families to save and invest money without losing the federal and state benefits they need. This includes Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. ABLE accounts help people with disabilities improve their health, independence, and quality of life.

What Matters

What Matters shows how good planning and creative support helps people live good lives. It does that by telling the stories of 9 people with developmental disabilities who work and enjoy other activities in their communities.

What's Possible: 9 Stories of Changed Lives

What's Possible tells the story of 9 people who used to live at the Rosewood Center. Rosewood was an institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It closed in 2009. People who lived there finally got a chance to live in the community again. Their stories show how much their lives improved.