What is the Council’s Annual Work Plan?

The Council describes our goals in a plan we develop every 5 years. It is called our “State Plan.” Goals describe what the Council wants to see happen. The State Plan also includes the activities the Council will work on to reach our goals.

The Council cannot work on all the activities every year. We have work plans that describe what we will work on each year. The information below is about the third year, called “Year 3.” This covers October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

Goal 1
People with developmental disabilities are leaders and advocates.

The Council will:

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

When this happens:

- At least 60 people with developmental disabilities will participate in POG activities. They will learn about important issues.
• POG will train at least 50 people. At least 5 of the trainers will have developmental disabilities.
• At least 30 people with developmental disabilities will learn to be good advocates. They will be active in advocacy activities.
• POG will educate at least 25 policymakers. Policymakers include the governor, legislators, and government officials. Those policymakers will make at least 4 changes to policies and programs that are good for people with developmental disabilities.
• POG will work with at least 2 organizations that focus on people with different disabilities.
• At least 2 people with developmental disabilities will serve on committees and coalitions that include people with different types of disabilities from different backgrounds. Coalitions are groups of people and organizations that work together on issues.
• At least 20 youth with disabilities participate in their Youth Leadership Forum. They will learn leadership skills and use them to make a difference.

Goal 2

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

The Council will:
• 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.

When this happens:
• At least 40 family members of people with developmental disabilities will participate in supported decision making training.
• 30 people with developmental disabilities and family members will participate
in Partners in Policymaking leadership training. They will advocate more for themselves and other people.

- At least 50 people with developmental disabilities participate in trainings and programs supported by the Council. This includes people from different backgrounds and different parts of Maryland.
- At least 3,000 people will get information that helps them understand issues that matter to them. More people will get this information by following the Council on social media.
- Council projects will help at least 20 people with developmental disabilities and their family members from poor areas of Maryland. There will be at least 2 projects that focus on communities that the Council has not worked with before.
- The Council will work with 4 state agencies to put important information into plain language and other languages.
- The Council will help train at least 3 people from diverse communities to work with people with disabilities and family members.

**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.

**The Council will:**

- Advocate for better supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Improve policies, programs, and activities that allow people with developmental disabilities to have the same opportunities 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.
When this happens:

- More policymakers will support issues that matter to people with developmental disabilities.
- At least 15 laws, rules, and policies will be better for people with developmental disabilities. Services and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities will get better.
- There will be more inclusive recreation opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
- Early childhood education and education policies will improve for children with developmental disabilities. More students with disabilities are taught alongside students who do not have disabilities.
- At least 20 child care providers will learn how to better support children with disabilities.
- The state changes or creates at least 4 policies that support people with developmental disabilities who work and go to school.
- The Council and other organizations will develop information and training for judges, lawyers, and other people in the criminal justice system. This will help them work with people with developmental disabilities.
- At least 200 correctional supervisors learn how to work with people with developmental disabilities in Maryland’s jails and prisons.

Questions?

If you have questions about the Council’s Work Plan, go to md-council.org. Email us at info@md-council.org or call us at 410-767-3670.