



ADVOCACY

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

People on the Go 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.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Supported Decision-Making Training ***Parents' Place of Maryland***

A law was passed in 2022 that allows adults to use supported decision-making (SDM) to get support to understand, consider, and make decisions themselves. SDM is a way for adults to get help from other people to make choices and decisions for themselves.

The Parents' Place of Maryland, in partnership with People On the Go Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, and The Arc Maryland, will develop a training for youth with developmental disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LEADING to Learn: Training on Working with Individuals with Developmental Disabilities for Correctional Supervisors *Loyola University*

In partnership with the Council, Loyola University will develop and implement a training program for correctional supervisors in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) – Division of Correction Jessup Correctional Region. To make this happen, Loyola will:

- Train and support people with developmental disabilities to help train correctional supervisors.
- Conduct 12-15 training sessions for 300 correctional supervisors in 4 facilities.

This will help correctional staff provide better support for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland's jails and prisons.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Partners in Policymaking®

The Arc Maryland

Partners in Policymaking® (Partners) 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. The Partners program is a series of nine 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.



The 300 Leaders

Tsinat Institute

The 300 Leaders is a leadership development program designed for youth with developmental disabilities who are Ethiopian and Eritrean. Youth will receive workforce development training, job coaching, and life skills mentoring. The goal is to prepare Ethiopian and Eritrean youth with developmental disabilities for future employment, more participation in the community, and transition to independent life.

RESOURCES

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

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 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.