



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Annual Work Plan: Year 4

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

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 fourth year, called "Year 4." This covers October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025.

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 100 people with developmental disabilities will participate in POG activities. They will learn about important issues.

- POG will train at least 50 people with developmental disabilities. 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 3 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 the 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 the Partners in Policymaking program. They will advocate more for themselves and other people.
- 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 in diverse communities in Maryland.
- At least 50 people will get information from the Council that is translated into other languages.
- At least 2 organizations come together to learn about cultural brokering. Cultural brokers are members of community they work with. They understand and share the values, beliefs, and practices of the community. They build trust between community members and the services and supports that they need.

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.
- At least 2 new resources are available for military and veteran families of children and adults with developmental disabilities.
- At least 100 people learn about inclusive playgrounds. 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 and without disabilities will learn together.
- The state changes or creates at least 4 policies that support people with developmental disabilities who work and go to school.
- At least 100 correctional supervisors learn how to work with people with developmental disabilities in Maryland's jails and prisons.
- The state changes at least 1 policy or practice to help people with developmental disabilities have better interactions with law enforcement and first responders.

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**.

