



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

New State Plan

Easy Read

What is the State Plan?



Every 5 years, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council makes a new plan.

It is called the **State Plan**.



Our new State Plan covers October 2026 through September 2031.



The State Plan describes:

- What we will do over the next 5 years.
and
- What will get better for people with developmental disabilities and their families because of the work we do.

The information below explains what we plan to focus on over the next 5 years.



Words to know

Goals are what the Council wants to see happen.

Objectives are the steps that will help us get there. They are what the Council will work on.

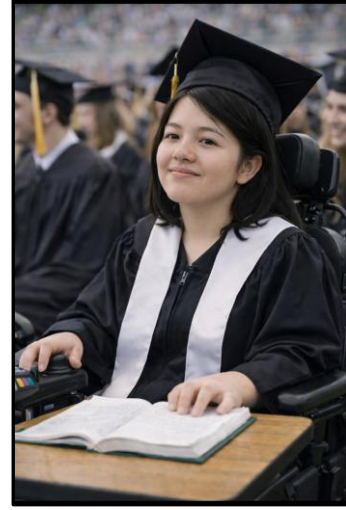
Outcomes describe what will change because of our work.



Special Focus

The Council will make sure people with developmental disabilities and their families in rural parts of Maryland are included in our work. Rural areas are places where homes are spread out and towns are small.

What the Council plans to work on



Goal 1

Children with developmental disabilities and their families have access to early supports, quality education, and services that prepare them for success in school and adulthood.

This means:

- Children with developmental disabilities and their families get help when they are young.
- Children get a good education and services that help them do well in school and as adults.

What the Council will do:

- Help more families find and use services and supports so their children can learn and play with other children.
- Help make it easier for families to get child care and early education.
- Help improve how students with developmental disabilities are taught in school.
- Help students with disabilities get ready for life after high school.

What will change:

- ✓ More families will understand their choices and know where to get help when they need it.
 - ✓ Schools and programs will do a good job supporting all children together.
 - ✓ More children with developmental disabilities will do well in school. They will leave high school ready for work, college, and adult life.
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Goal 2

Adults with developmental disabilities have employment, housing, and transportation options so they can live, work, and be a part of their communities.

This means:

- Adults with developmental disabilities have good choices about where they live and work.
- They have good transportation they can count on.

What the Council will do:

- Help make changes so more people with developmental disabilities get and keep jobs.
- Help make it easier for people with developmental disabilities to find housing and transportation that work for them.

What will change:

- ✓ More adults with developmental disabilities will be working, living in homes they choose, and getting where they need to go.
- ✓ They will be a part of their communities.



Goal 3

People with developmental disabilities have the services, supports, and opportunities they need to live well in their communities.

This means:

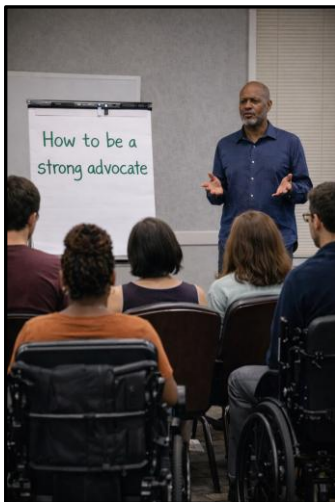
- People with developmental disabilities get the services and support they need and want.

What the Council will do:

- Help more people get support at home and in the community.
- Help make sure people have good support staff.
- Make it easier for people with developmental disabilities to get medical, dental, and other care to stay healthy.
- Create more chances for fun, friendships, and being part of the community.
- Help make communities safer for people with developmental disabilities.

What will change:

- ✓ Services and supports will work better for people.
- ✓ More people with developmental disabilities will have happy, healthy lives in the community.



Goal 4

People with developmental disabilities and families are leaders, advocates, and informed decision-makers.

This means:

- People with developmental disabilities and their family members make decision based on good information.
- They speak up for themselves and others.
- They help make policies, programs, and services better for themselves and others

What the Council will do:

- Help people with developmental disabilities and families learn how to be strong leaders and advocates.
- Help people with developmental disabilities and families take part in leadership and advocacy activities.
- Share information in ways that are easy to understand.

What will change:

- ✓ More people with developmental disabilities and family members will feel ready to speak up and take action.
- ✓ More people will take part in leadership and advocacy activities.
- ✓ State and community leaders will make decisions based on what people with developmental disabilities and families say they want and need.
- ✓ People with developmental disabilities and family members will make a difference.

All the pictures were made using artificial intelligence (AI).
That means they do not show real people or places.