

# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council: FY2027-2031 State Plan

## Proposed Goals and Objectives for Public Comment

### Council Vision

People with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together.

### Council Mission

We create change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

### Proposed State Plan Goals, Objectives & Activities

The Council's FY2027-2031 goals address issues that affect the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan. These goals – and their related objectives and activities – will guide the Council's work to improve services and supports, expand opportunities, and empower people so they can live the lives they want. Each goal includes specific objectives and activities designed to achieve these outcomes.

- **Goals:** The big picture of what the Council wants to accomplish over time.
- **Objectives:** Clear steps that help the Council reach each goal. They show progress along the way.
- **Outcomes:** The changes or results that happen because of the Council's work. They show the real-world impact.

**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.

### Objectives

- 1.1 Increase the number of families who understand and use early intervention services and community supports that help children with disabilities take part in everyday activities with other children.
- 1.2 Improve access to early care and education for children with developmental disabilities, including those in rural areas.
- 1.3 Improve how students with developmental disabilities are educated and prepared for life after high school.

**Goal 1 Outcome:** *Families understand their options and can find and use early supports. Schools and related programs are better prepared to meet students' needs. Children with developmental disabilities get the support and education they need to succeed and leave high school with clear paths to work, higher education, and adult life.*

**Goal 2:** Adults with developmental disabilities have employment, housing, and transportation options so they can live, work, and be a part of their communities.

### **Objectives**

2.1 Increase employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

2.2 Increase access to affordable, accessible housing and transportation.

**Goal 2 Outcome:** *Adults with developmental disabilities get and keep good jobs, affordable housing that meets their needs, and reliable transportation so they can participate fully in their communities.*

**Goal 3:** People with developmental disabilities have the services, supports, and opportunities they need to live well in their communities.

### **Objectives**

3.1 Increase the number of children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive the home and community supports they need and want.

3.2 Increase the availability and quality of community-based supports for people with developmental disabilities by strengthening the direct support workforce.

3.3 Improve access to medical, dental, behavioral, and reproductive healthcare for people with developmental disabilities.

3.4 Increase opportunities for recreation and community connections for children and adults with developmental disabilities. *Community connection means having relationships and being a part of the community.*

3.5 Improve safety for people with developmental disabilities by reducing risks in the community.

**Goal 3 Outcome:** *People with developmental disabilities have what they need to live and thrive in their communities. Community supports and services work well and are available when people need them, resulting in better health, safety, and day-to-day support.*

**Goal 4:** People with developmental disabilities and families are leaders, advocates, and informed decision-makers.

**Objectives**

- 4.1 Increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be effective advocates and leaders.
- 4.2 Prepare and support people with developmental disabilities and families to take part in advocacy and leadership activities.
- 4.3 Increase the number of people with developmental disabilities and families that receive information in ways that are easy to understand.

**Goal 4 Outcome:** *People with DD and their families influence decisions that affect their lives because they have the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to lead, advocate, and make informed choices.*