



# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

## Annual Work Plan: Year 1 (FFY 2027)

October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027

### 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 first year, called "Year 1." This covers October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027.

### 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.**

#### The Council will:

- Help families understand and use early intervention services and community supports. This helps children with disabilities learn, play, and thrive with other children.
- Help more children with disabilities and their families access early care and education.
- Help students with developmental disabilities be more prepared for life after high school.
- Educate health care professionals about supporting people with disabilities.



### **When this happens:**

- At least 20 family members get information, resources, or training on early intervention. Family members are better able to say what services they need and want.
- The Council works with at least 3 organizations to help educate health care professionals, like doctors and nurses.
- At least 5 child care and other programs get training or technical assistance.
- At least 50 early care and education staff get training or technical assistance.
- At least 50 students and their families get more information about options after high school.
- The state changes at least 2 policies or procedures about education for students with disabilities.

## **Goal 2**

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

### **The Council will:**

- Help create opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to work.
- Help more people with disabilities access housing and transportation options that work for them.



### **When this happens:**

- At least 4 state agencies and businesses are educated about disability issues. At least 2 of these agencies and businesses change what they do as a result.
- At least 100 people get information about job opportunities.
- At least 2 housing and transportation policies are created or changed.
- At least 100 people get information or training about housing options.

## **Goal 3**

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



### **The Council will:**

- Advocate for better supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Increase the number of direct support professionals (DSPs) who support people with disabilities.
- 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 access to healthcare and recreation.
- Improve safety in the community for people with developmental disabilities.

### **When this happens:**

- More policymakers will support issues that matter to people with developmental disabilities.
- At least 10 laws, regulations, and policies improve for people with developmental disabilities. Services and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities will get better.
- At least 100 DSPs and Coordinators of Community Services (CCSs) are trained.
- At least 1 healthcare policy or service is improved for people with disabilities.
- At least 25 people are trained about recreation for people with and without disabilities.
- At least 150 people get information about recreation opportunities.
- At least 50 first responders learn about interacting with people with disabilities.

## Goal 4

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

### The Council will:

- Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to be leaders and advocates. This includes giving money to People on the Go Maryland (POG).
- Prepare people with developmental disabilities and families to advocate. This includes giving money to The Arc Maryland for Partners in Policymaking.
- Help people with disabilities and their families get more information that is easy to understand.



### When this happens:

- POG hosts at least 4 trainings. They train at least 50 people with developmental disabilities.
- At least 25 people with developmental disabilities and family members learn skills through Partners in Policymaking.
- At least 50 people with developmental disabilities learn skills through the Council's small grants.
- At least 300 family members learn skills through the Council's small grants.
- At least 2,600 people get information about important issues.
- At least 50 people get information from the Council that is translated into other languages.
- The Council shares at least 10 resources about important topics.

## Questions?

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

