

# MDDC

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**



## Council Members:

**Chairperson:** Sheryl Kuenzer-Self-Advocate\*

**Vice-Chairperson:** Kristen Columbus- Family Member

Justin P. Caine-Self-Advocate\*\*  
Heidi A. DeVries-Self-Advocate  
Kristin L. Kleinheksel-Self-Advocate  
Paul Palmer-Self-Advocate  
Jeremiah J. Prusi-Self-Advocate\*\*\*  
Andre Robinson-Self-Advocate\*  
Robert Spruce-Self-Advocate  
David J. Taylor-Self-Advocate\*\*

Jill Barker-Family Member\*\*\*  
Celena L. Barnes-Family Member  
Robert L. Brown-Family Member  
Lori A. Campbell-Family Member\*\*\*  
Marlowe S. Franklin-Family Member  
Vera P. Graham-Family Member\*  
Jane Pilditch-Family Member  
Richard Suhrheinrich-Family Member\*\*

Melanie Brown-Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs\*\*\*  
Elmer Cerano-Protection & Advocacy System  
Debra Huntley-Department of Human Services\*\*  
Barbara LeRoy-University Centers for Excellence  
Susan Liebetreu-Department of Education (IDEA)  
David T. Verseput-Department of Community Health

\*Term expired 8/2013

\*\*Replaced a Council Member whose term had expired

\*\*\*Filled vacancy

## Council Staff:

Vendela M. Collins-Executive Director  
Yasmina Bouraoui-Deputy Director  
Mitzi Allen-Executive Secretary  
Tandy Bidinger-Public Policy Analyst  
Dee Florence-Advocacy Secretary  
Terry Hunt-Community Services Consultant  
Tedra Jackson-Grants Monitor  
Meredith Smith-Communications Representative  
Cheryl Trommater-Grants Manager  
Tracy Vincent-Resource Analyst

---

201 Townsend St.  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-335-3158 (voice)  
517-335-2751(fax)  
517-335-3171(TDD)  
Mdch-dd-council@michigan.gov  
www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Letter to Readers	4
Annual Retreat	6
Universal Education	10
Employment First!	12
Housing	14
Legislative Event	16
RICC Summit	17
Grants	18
Including Our Neighbors (ION)	20
Beyond Tokenism	21
Self-Advocacy: RICCS	22

---

MDDC Annual Report is published every year. All rights reserved. Contents of this report may not be reproduced without the written permission of MDDC. For more information on any topic discussed please visit our website at: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil). Questions or comments can be answered at (517) 355-3158.

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the members and staff of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), we present the 2013 Annual Report. It is with great pleasure that we continue our work of systems change, advocacy and capacity building. This past year has been a difficult one due to sequestration and Washington gridlock, but we have continued to work towards our goal that all citizens of Michigan have the opportunities and supports to achieve their full potential and life dreams.

Our focus this year has been on inclusion in housing, employment, education and family support, transportation, and health issues.

Recently, the Council finished a nationwide study on including people with high and complex needs in leadership positions. We will use the work of the Council to further our findings to involve more people with high and complex needs in our workgroups and committees.

With the continued support from Council members, grantees, RICCs and staff, the Council continues its work making sure “Our Community Includes Everyone” becomes a reality.

Sincerely,



Kristen E. Columbus  
Chair



Vendella M. Collins  
Executive Director



# ANNUAL RETREAT

On May 21-22, RICCs, Council members and grantees gathered for the Council's Annual Retreat at the Okemos Conference Center. This two-day Retreat was filled with informational sessions and ended with a spectacular Awards Banquet.

The first day of the Retreat covered RICC development with presentations on: Self-Advocacy, National Core Indicators, The Ideal RICC and Supporting the RICC Network. The day ended with a fantastic awards banquet. Members arrived dressed to impress!

On the second day, there was an overview of the Complex Needs Study along with discussion and recommendations. The members learned about how to build a better RICC, self-advocacy techniques and results from various Council projects.



## And the Winners ARE...



**RICC Makes A Difference:**

**Champion:**

**Community Outreach:**

**Trailblazer Grantee:**

**Champion:**

**Lifetime Achievement:**

The Ontonagon RICC

Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker

Scott Marvin

MDRC, Connections for Community Leadership (CCL)

Sen. Tom Casperson

Cheryl Trommater

# UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

On June 11, 2013 the Council adopted a position on Universal Education, which outlines that schools should be organized according to the State Board of Education's framework and foundation which was established in their document: Universal Education: Vision and Principles (approved October, 2005). Further, the Council holds policymakers, legislators, and other government officials responsible for removing legal, attitudinal and practical barriers in all schools.

**Universal Education honors the rights of all students in public education to learn together in an environment that assures access to resources and provides supports to all students. Full implementation will result in better outcomes for all students, which in turn, will benefit all Michigan communities.**

To read the Universal Education position or booklet please visit: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

The Individual, Family Support, Education and Advocacy (IFSEA) Workgroup developed a booklet to introduce advocates, administrators, parents and legislators to the principles of Universal Education. To view the booklet please visit our website.

This diagram explains what Universal Education is and what it means to the community.

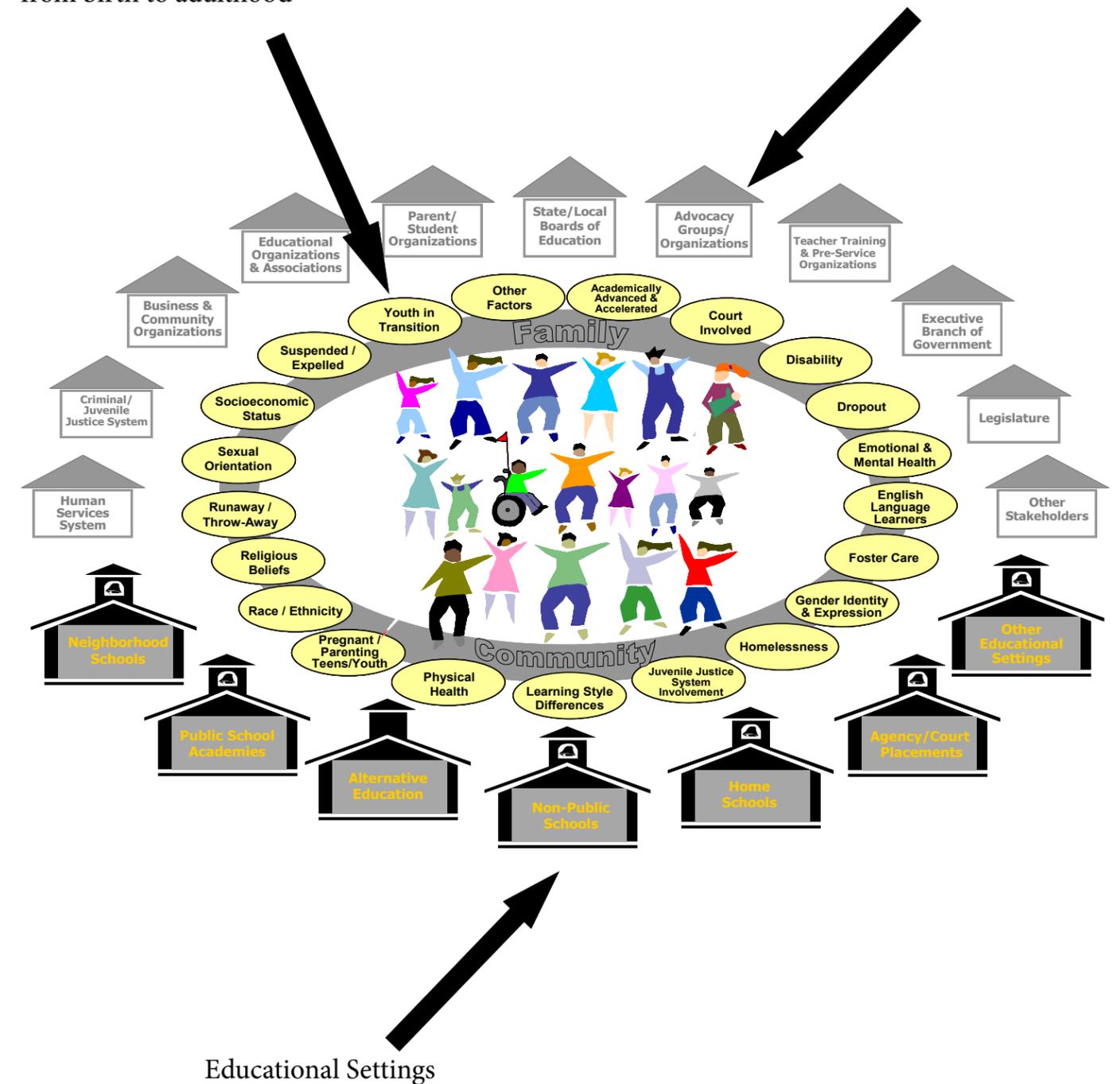
Learners in all of their diversity come from a variety of backgrounds and life situations that may pose barriers to their access to, experience with, and progress in public education.

\*Provided by Michigan Department of Education (MDE)



Factors affecting today's learners from birth to adulthood

Educational Stakeholders

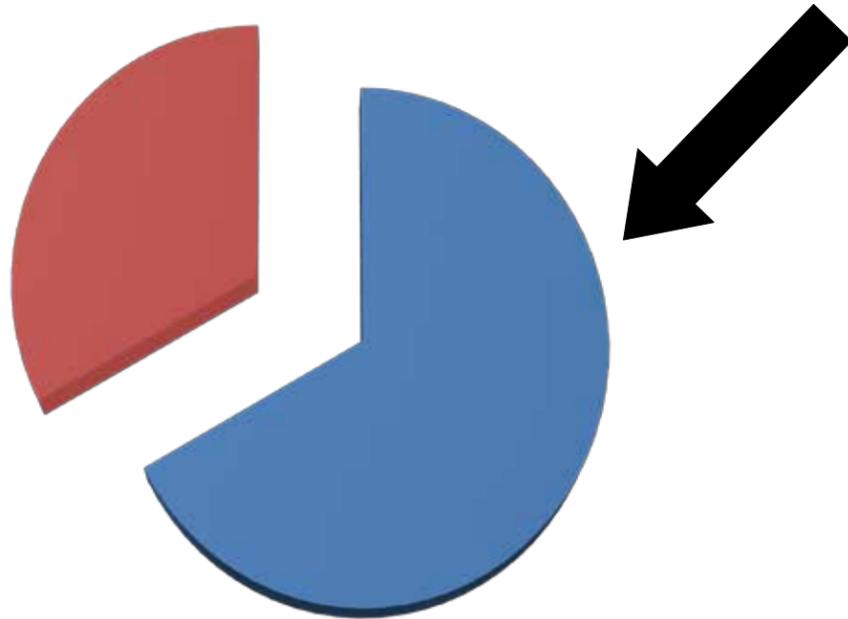


# EMPLOYMENT FIRST!

## Mission & Principles

Employed Adults with Developmental Disabilities who make **LESS** than the Minimum Wage in Michigan

**67% of adults earned LESS than the minimum wage in Michigan which is \$7.40**



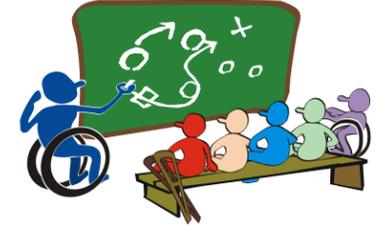
Source: FY 11 CMHSP Annual Employment Indicators, Employed Adult Consumers with a Developmental Disability or Developmental Disability/Mental Illness, Michigan Department of Community Health

On August 13, 2013 the Council passed a Mission and Principles document promoting the adoption of Employment First policies in Michigan. The abbreviated principles are below:

1. Individual integrated employment is the first and preferred outcome for individuals with disabilities.



2. Employees with disabilities have the right to accommodations as necessary.



3. Employees with disabilities are compensated at or above the minimum wage.



4. Employment services:  
 a. are developed using the principles of person-centered planning  
 b. are provided within an integrated work environment;  
 c. may include career exploration, job discovery and etc.



5. Implementation of Employment First must be based on clear public policies and practices. That ensure employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the general workforce.



To read the full Employment First! Mission and Principles please visit:  
[www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

# HOUSING

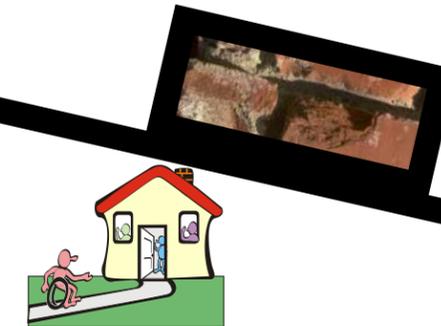
On October 8, 2013 the Council adopted a position and recommendations on housing options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The position outlines that all people with developmental disabilities should have the opportunity and choice to live where and with whom they choose and with the supports they need to live successfully in independent inclusive community-based housing.

Therefore, the Council believes and advocates that Michigan must do the following:

1. Assure people with disabilities throughout the State have fair and unbiased residential options from which to choose.



5. Assure that competent, well-trained in-home services are available to all people with disabilities.



2. Assure Person-Centered Planning and Self-Determination processes are done with integrity where the desires of the individual are respected and implemented.



6. Encourage the State to ensure that funding exists to provide the necessary supports and services for people with disabilities.



3. Develop programs to educate people with disabilities, their families and advocates, about the risks and benefits of the full array of living options.



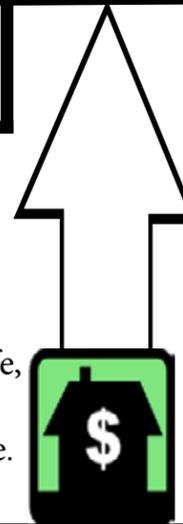
4. Provide navigators to help people who choose a more independent residential setting, to move from their present institutional or other supervised residential setting.



7. Assure people with disabilities have ongoing opportunities for choice and can seek alternative living arrangements as needed.



8. Increase the stock of safe, affordable, accessible housing options statewide.



To read the full position and recommendations please visit:  
[www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)

# LEGISLATIVE EVENT

On February 13, 2013 the Council held its 14th Annual Legislative Event at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing.

Over 130 members from various Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICCS), which are local self-advocacy groups, met with about 40 Legislators and Aides from their counties to discuss policy issues affecting the developmental disability community.



# RICC SUMMIT

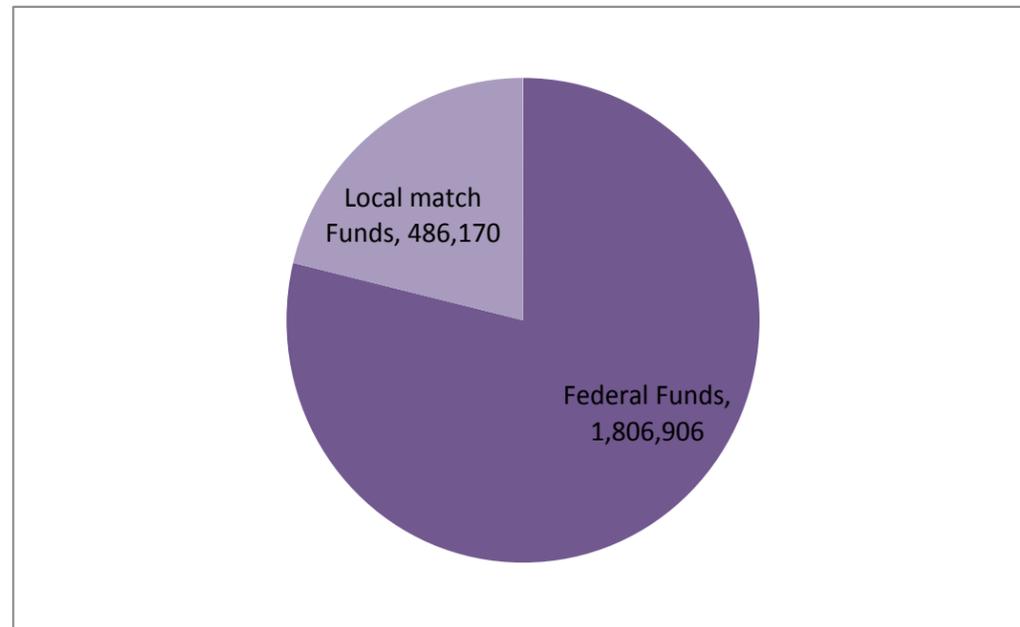
A RICC Summit was held on July 9, 2013 at the East Lansing Hannah Center. The summit was an opportunity for RICC members to learn self-advocacy and leadership skills. Workshops focused on avoiding burnout, how to run a Shred the Hate Campaign, which focused on ending the use of the word 'Retard' and anti-bullying techniques, and how to use Facebook to promote RICC activities.



# GRANTS

The Council funds grants to nonprofits and government agencies to carry out the system change strategies in its Five-Year Strategic Plan. Grants are funded with federal funds and a 25 percent match, mostly at the local level. The federal grant requires that a minimum of 75 percent of those funds be used for advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council has awarded more than \$40 million in grants over the past 30 years. The effects of those grant projects are still felt today. While specifics may vary from year to year, all grants have the same overall goals: (1)inclusion, (2) improves quality of life; (3) self-determination and, (4)systems change.

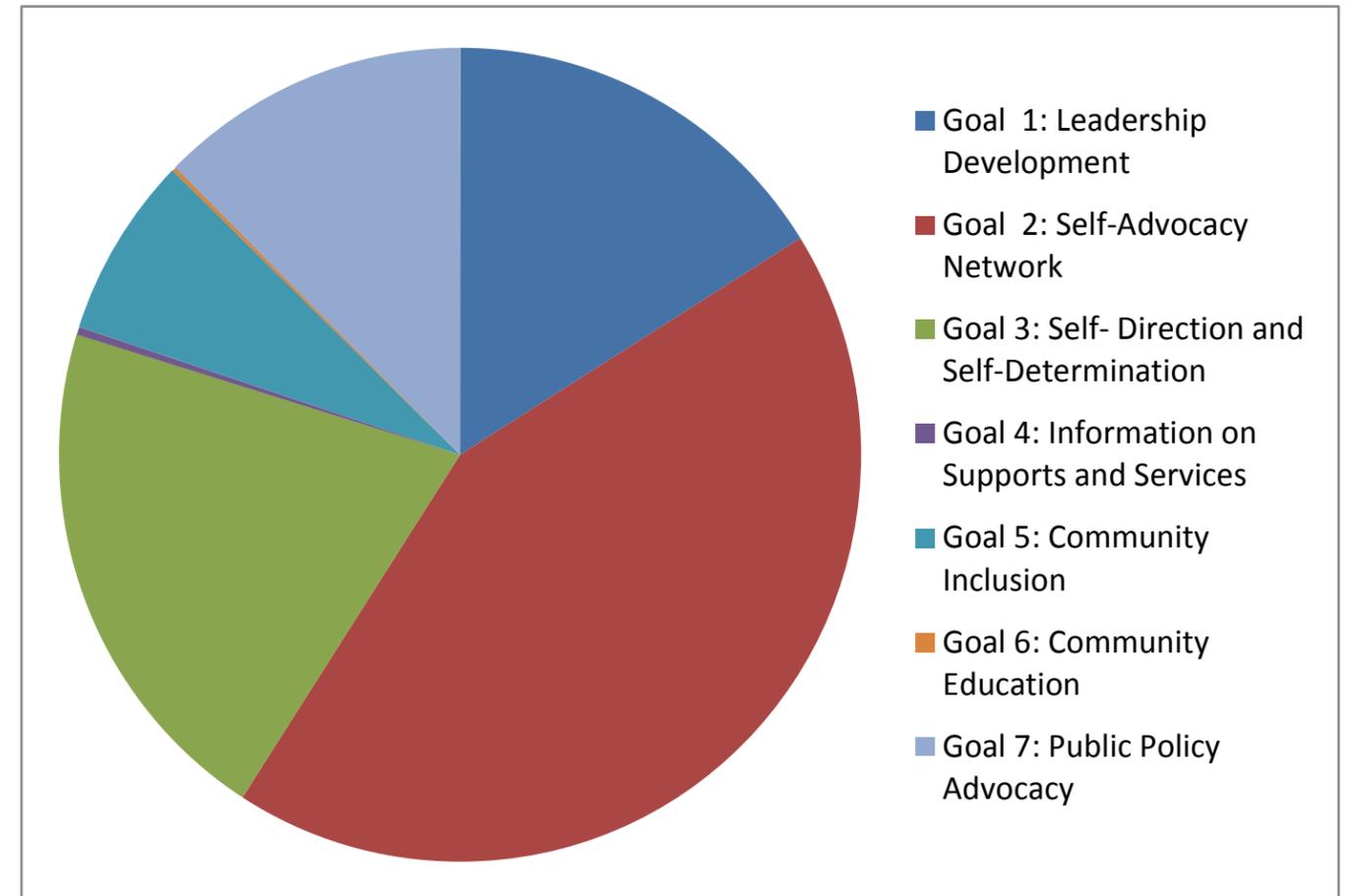
## Total Project Budget



# GRANTS

The Federal allotment is broken down into seven goal areas: Leadership Development, Self-Advocacy Network, Self-Direction and Self-Determination, Information on Supports and Services, Community Inclusion, Community Education, and Public Policy Advocacy.

## Federal Allotment



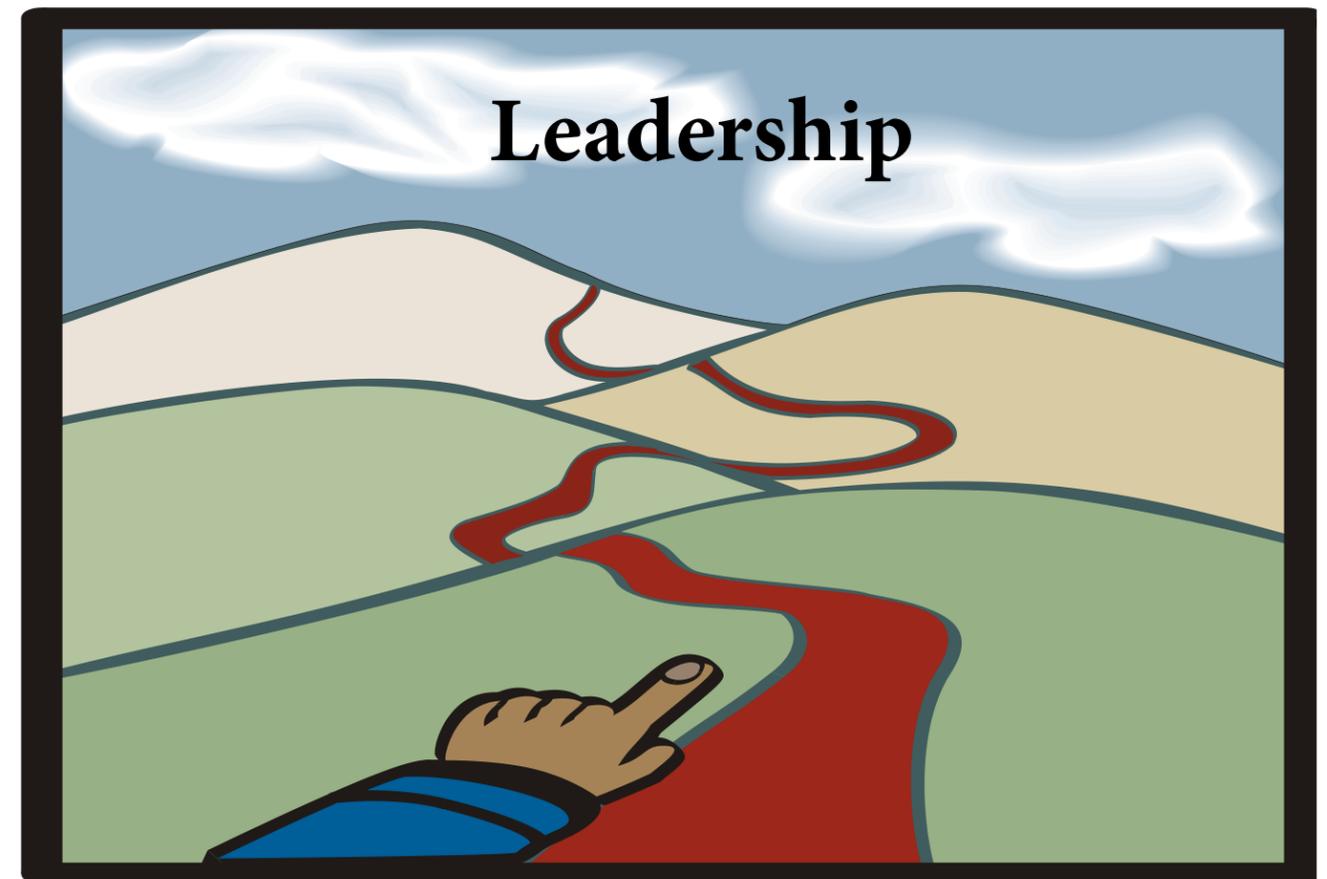
# INCLUDING OUR NEIGHBORS(ION)

Including Our Neighbors (ION) concluded a five year project on September 30, 2013. This grant helped generic, non-disability, specific organizations and neighborhoods change their culture, beliefs and actions by including people with developmental disabilities. It also built caring relationships with neighbors that improved quality of life, social networks, housing, employment and other outcomes, while supporting people with disabilities in being contributing members of the community. Organizations realized that they were not as inclusive as they thought. They learned about the inclusion scale and how to transform their organization to become fully inclusive. Through ION they were able to change their organizational structure, create accessible tools and systematic change.



# BEYOND TOKENISM

The Council believes that people with complex needs should be fully included in the community. The grant surveyed over 400 individuals in a national survey on how groups include people with high and complex needs in leadership, public policy advocacy and community activities. It also looked at how the Council can best implement the best practices used to increase the number of self-advocates on boards and decision-making bodies. The Council is now analyzing the results and looking at the best way to implement these recommendations.

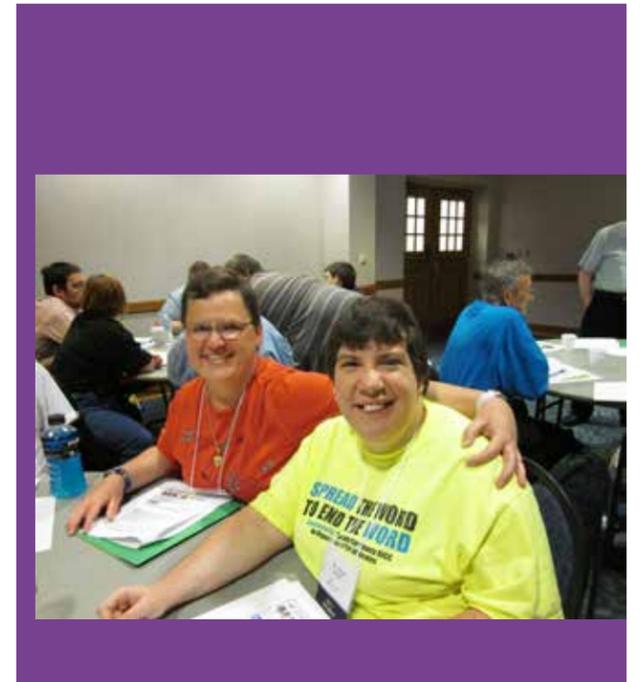
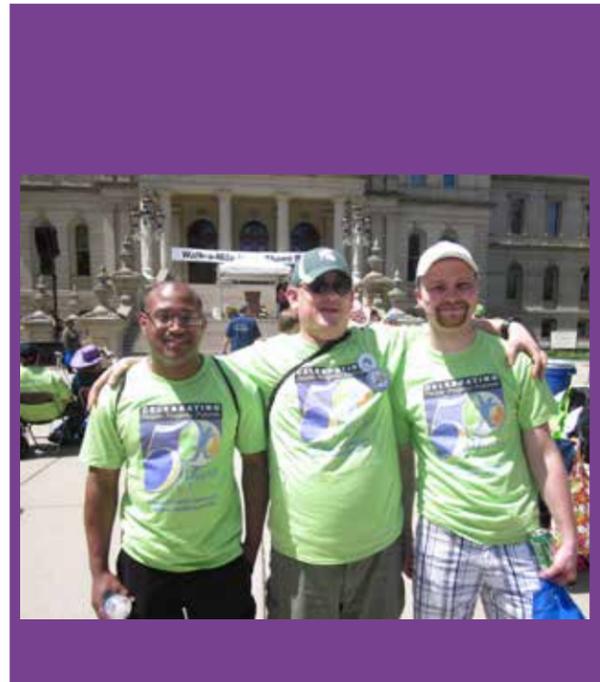


# SELF-ADVOCACY: RICCS

Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions (RICCs) are local self-advocacy groups funded by the Council.

RICCs work to change local systems and the way communities interact with people with disabilities. RICCs help members learn critical information, build confidence and develop leadership skills. RICCs help people with disabilities become leaders in advocacy in their communities, while emphasizing self-determination and community inclusion.

There were 31 RICCs certified in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and five regions, each having a regional coordinator.





---

*Our Community Includes Everyone*

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council works to support people with developmental disabilities across the state. The Governor appointed 21-member council consists of people with disabilities; family members and advocates of people with disabilities; and representatives from state and local agencies who work with people with developmental disabilities.

