



# DD COUNCIL:

## Education, Advocacy, System Change

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

### What is the Developmental Disabilities Council?

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is a 21-member group appointed by the Governor and empowered by federal and state law to advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Council has an exciting mission: "To support people with developmental disabilities to achieve life dreams."

Congress created DD Councils; one in each state and territory, to change service systems to better respond to the needs, wants and desires of people with I/DD and develop advocacy strategies to make change happen. Councils help people create better lives for themselves by challenging the status quo in our state.

The law that drives this commitment is the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended in 2000.

### A strong voice:

The Council works to ensure that the voices of people with disabilities are heard. It speaks with them to the Governor, legislature and other policymakers. It supports them in directing their own lives.

The DD Council works with its partners to create and sustain opportunities for housing, education, transportation, employment, health, recreation...nearly every experience of Michigan life. Its outreach includes support for families, recognizing diversity, and supporting grassroots advocacy.

### A tool for change:

Staying in touch with those who make policy and laws is very important. The Council informs people about the political process, sponsors a legislative event, promotes voting and supports other activities to increase the political influence of people with developmental disabilities. The political process is a powerful tool for change.



### A word from the DD Council Executive Director

"Through the awarding of grants and working with self-advocates and allies around the state of Michigan, we continue to be a force for positive change in the lives of people with I/DD. Our work supports new and meaningful opportunities for growth and capacity building for people with I/DD and their families to create experiences that lead to greatly enriched lives."

~Vendella M. Collins

For information or questions contact the Developmental Disabilities Council at: (517) 335-3158, or on the web at: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)