

Money Well Spent

The Council offers grants to nonprofits and government agencies to carry out the system change strategies in its Five-Year Strategic Plan. 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)system change. Other Council activities include collaborating with other advocacy groups to provide an even stronger voice for changing social systems. Providing testimony in legislative hearings. Establishing local grass-roots coalitions operated largely by people with disabilities. They are called “RICCs” for Regional Inclusive Community Coalitions.

RICCs Challenges Barriers

There are about 31 RICCs across Michigan, meeting with local and state policymakers, challenging community barriers and holding local workshops on everything from building accessibility to get out the vote sessions. RICCs have forged very effective local collaborations to change systems that directly affect members.

For more information on RICCs, the council and advocacy in Michigan, please call the DD Council’s office in Lansing or email us at:

Mdch-dd-council@michigan.gov



Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council



*Our Community Includes
Everyone*

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



The **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council** (DD Council) works to support people with developmental disabilities to achieve life dreams. The 21-member Council is appointed by the Governor, and supported by a Lansing-based staff. Meetings of the Council are public (anyone may attend). The Council works to ensure that people with developmental disabilities are fully included in their communities and in charge of their lives. The Council advocates for systems change to improve community supports so that people can be as independent as possible.

A Strong voice

The Council works to ensure that the choices of people with disabilities are heard. 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 and economic justice; nearly every experience of American life. It's outreach includes support for all families, recognizing diversity and supporting grassroots advocacy.

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 clout of people with developmental disabilities.

Working together

Council members, staff, RICCs and grantees partner with allies to change systems that aid people with disabilities as they take charge of their own lives. **Advisory committees and work groups** work to support and advise the Council on the best ways to reach its goals.

The **Public Policy Committee** advises the Council on legislative issues and recommends policy, positions and strategies for change.

The **Program Committee** oversees grant making and grant projects resulting from the Council's five-year plan of action.

The **Diversity Committee** advances diversity throughout the work of the council placing value on all perspectives, promoting an environment of full inclusion.

The **Individual and Family Support Education and Advocacy Work Group** advocates to increase the quality, availability and range of family support services. They are tasked with expanding awareness of the need and benefits of family support services.

The **Transportation Work group** advocates for increased availability of comprehensive statewide transportation services that are accessible, affordable and available.

The **Health Issues Work Group** responds to health concerns of person with disabilities by: (a) developing a health issues advocacy agenda, including action strategies, and (b) identifying health related projects for potential council funding.

The **Housing Work Group** develops housing policy and strategies for the Council. It promotes availability of (a) safe, affordable, accessible housing of the person's choice and (b) needed supports wherever the person chooses to live.

The **Economic Justice Work Group** works to advance economic justice for people with developmental disabilities and other devalued groups.

