



State Council's on Developmental Disabilities

Congress created 'State Council's on Developmental Disabilities'; one in each state and territory, to change service systems to better respond to the needs, wants and desires of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and develop advocacy strategies to make change happen. Councils are federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with I/DD in their state or territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change to help individuals gain more control over their lives. The law that drives this commitment is the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD ACT).

The purpose of the DD Act, as described in the current law, is to, "assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life".

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."

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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 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.

**For information or questions, please contact the
Developmental Disabilities Council at
(517) 335-3158, or visit our website
www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil**