The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

Make it Happen

Advocate
Collaborate
Educate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Agenda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NJCDD Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are Developmental Disabilities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-Year Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborations &amp; Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who we are

The NJCDD fosters leadership and advocacy for people with disabilities working towards greater independence in their communities.

Established in 1971 by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in all US states and territories, The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) is a federally-mandated disability rights and advocacy organization.

NJCDD gives individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their family members a voice in the planning and implementation of public policies.
Members, Organizations and Public Meetings

**NJCD**D has 30 members appointed by the Governor.

60% of members are people with developmental disabilities or immediate family.

40% of members are advocacy organizations, private & state agencies, plus Disability Rights NJ, and Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities.

NJCD holds quarterly meetings regarding issues impacting the I/DD community.
NJCDD’S VISION
That all individuals with developmental disabilities:

- are contributing members of their neighborhoods and communities;
- make real choices and have control over their own lives;
- have the freedom to strive, excel, and make mistakes;
- are in a position to achieve personal goals;
- are in a position to influence policy and process decisions that affect their lives;
- have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, opportunities of citizenship as does any other person.
What are developmental disabilities?

Limitations in three or more areas of life, self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, and capacity for independent living or economic self-sufficiency.

Is attributed to an intellectual or physical impairment, or a combination of both.

Manifests before age 22.

Is likely to continue indefinitely.

Reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic services, supports, or other assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.
Five-Year Plan

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act mandates that all DD Councils operate under a Five-Year Plan. The plan focuses on key issues leading to systems change and capacity building to promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion of people with I/DD.

**Goals for 2017-2021**

- Direct Support Staffing Issues
- Special Education Advocacy
- Employment
- Housing
- Transportation
- Health and Wellness
- Self-Advocate and Family Training and Information
NJCDD’s programs are developed to meet the goals of the NJCDD’s Five-Year Plan. These programs create a supportive environment while building leadership and advocacy skills.

PEOPLE FIRST NJ

In 2014, the NJCDD and self-advocates establish county-wide People First NJ chapters across the state. People First NJ’s philosophy states that all people with i/DD are capable and entitled to pursue their own advocacy efforts, on their own terms, and with leadership that is chosen by them.

Major Activities People First NJ Chapters:
• Disability Advocacy, Leadership Development, Peer Support Fellowship,
• Disability Awareness and Education, Community Inclusion

For more information
Jaymes Brill, People First New Jersey Coordinator
jaymes.brill@njcdd.org | 609-984-4513

njcdd.org/peoplefirstnj
www.facebook.com/PeopleFirstNJ
The Regional Family Support Planning Councils (RFSPC) were established by Family Support Act of 1993 and coordinated by the NJCDD. The RFSPC are volunteers and family members caring for a person with I/DD at home.

RFSPC members monitor and evaluate I/DD supports and services, inform families about current family support issues, and provide information and feedback to policymakers about the needs of families.

RFSPC also works closely with:
- NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
- Department of Children & Families (DCF)
- Division of Disability Services (DDS)
- Ombudsman
- Other state agencies

For more information
Kyoko Coco, Statewide Family Support Coordinator
kyoko.coco@njcdd.org | 609-341-3112

Rebekah Novemsky, Statewide Family Support Liaison
rebekah.novemsky@njcdd.org | 609-984-4510

njcdd.org/the-regional-family-support-planning-councils | www.facebook.com/njfspc

Regional Map
1: Sussex, Warren, Morris
2: Bergen, Hudson, Passaic
3: Somerset, Union
4: Essex
5: Hunterdon, Middlesex, Mercer
6: Monmouth, Ocean
7: Burlington, Camden
8: Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester
9: Atlantic
10: Cape May
The NJCDD’s **Youth Leadership Program** provides leadership and advocacy training to young adults aged **15 to 25** with I/DD. Schools and community participants develop a better understanding of how government and public policy works.

- Tips for Leadership & Team Work
- Public Speaking
- How Government Works
- You Can Vote
- Person-First Language
- **What is Self-Advocacy & Self-Determination?**
- Disability Culture
- Developing A Student Profile

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**For more information**

Youth Leadership Program Coordinator, Frank Latham
frank.latham@njcdd.org | 609-292-3453
njcdd.org/youth-leadership-program
PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Brought to New Jersey by the NJCDD in 1996, the Partners in Policymaking program is a nationally-recognized leadership and advocacy training program for adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Participants (Partners) gain knowledge and skills that allow them to influence public policy.

During this eight-month program, Partners have access to the latest information on disability issues and best practices in the field of advocacy, which they learn from nationally-known experts. They become familiar with policymaking and legislative processes at the local, state, and national level.

- Advocate for opportunities and supports that promote self-determination, independence, and inclusion in all aspects of community life
- Be members of advisory boards and committees
- Work alongside policymakers and state agencies
- Create meaningful positive changes in our state
- Nearly 500 Partners graduated in NJ

For more information
Jamie McGeady, Project Staff at the Boggs Center
jaime.mcgeady@rutgers.edu | 732-235-9613
https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggcenter/projects/NJPartnersinPolicymaking.html
NJCDD GRANTS
NJCDD awards grant funding outlined in our Five-Year Plan to organizations and programs that provide services and broaden opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

RECENT GRANTS

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Building Capacity to Improve Adult Healthcare for Patients with I/DD

Community Access Unlimited
Advocate & Family Guide to Service

SPAN Advocacy
Special Education Volunteer Advocate Training

The Arc of New Jersey
Training and Resource Databank

NJ Association of Community Providers
Coalition for a DSP Living Wage

The Supportive Housing Association
Building the Foundation for Housing Opportunities for People with I/DD
Community Innovation Projects
Community Innovation Projects (CIP) fund new and innovative local community-based projects that provide meaningful benefits for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Successful Community Innovation Projects will:
- Be related to the Council’s Five-Year Plan
- Focus on advocacy, local capacity building, systems change, social change, equal access, community competence or education of families and self-advocates
- Create and strengthen relationships with local associations and groups
- Position people with I/DD or their families as active and engaged participants
- Have a plan for dissemination of successful practices
- Reflect the values, preferences, languages and cultures of the engaged communities

Leadership Training Support Fund
Funds individuals with I/DD and their families to attend conferences, seminars, and other advocacy training/information building activities.
Collaborations and Partnerships

The NJCDD collaborates extensively with advocacy groups, public and private agencies, educators, community groups, and volunteer organizations, believing that only by working together toward reaching common goals can we hope to create positive change and significant progress in our community.
**R-Word presentation** raises awareness for the eradication of the word ‘retard’ and ‘retarded’ in the community and media.

**Together We Are Stronger Than Bullying presentation** focuses on techniques school aged children can recognize bullying targeted towards people with I/DD and how to stop it.

**Emergency Preparedness presentation** guides people with I/DD the skills need to prepared for a natural disaster.

For more information contact: NJCDD Presenter **Frank Latham** | frank.latham@njcdd.org | 609-292-3453
PUBLICATIONS

People & Families
MAGAZINE
A quarterly publication highlighting key issues of NJ residents who are working to make communities more inclusive for people with I/DD.

Disability in Focus
BLOG
Monthly blog providing commentary on issues and trends affecting people with I/DD.

Advocacy in Action
E-NEWSLETTER
Monthly e-newsletter providing subscribers important updates about policies, services and events in the I/DD.

common ground
NEWSLETTER
A newsletter and website for parents, educators, and other education stakeholders covering legal and legislative developments that shape special educational services. Learn more and subscribe www.njcommonground.org

SUBSCRIBE online at NJCDD.ORG
Get in Touch

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