

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
DRAFT
Five Year State Plan
FFY 2017-2021
June 2, 2016

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council invites you to provide feedback and comments on this draft **Five Year Plan for FFY 2017-2021**. **Comments must be received by July 21, 2016**. The issues and priorities described in this Plan were identified by people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), family members, advocates, service providers and the general public. To gather input for this Plan, the Council conducted forums, focus groups and disseminated an on-line survey reaching more than six hundred (600) people. Three major focus areas emerged that participants of those activities suggested the Council work to improve or strengthen: 1) **Service Systems**, 2) **Advocacy and Self-Advocacy**, and 3) **Community Building and Engagement**.

This Plan seeks to strengthen advocacy and self-advocacy coalitions; improve how public services are provided to people with I/DD and their families; provide greater assurances that people with I/DD will be protected from abuse, isolation and neglect; improve opportunities for children to be educated in inclusive classrooms; facilitate efforts to improve supports for people who want to work; and assist and support communities in welcoming people with I/DD. The finalized Plan will include measurable objectives and performance expectations.

Council State Plan Goals

1. **Service System: Public service systems will be more responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and their families so the people with I/DD will have better opportunities to learn, work and thrive in their communities.**

Activities will be carried out to address improvements in the service systems' performance in critical areas such as: the use of person-centered approaches; the development and retention of a quality workforce; and the assurance of personal safety and rights protections.

2. **Advocacy: People with I/DD, their families and allies will gain knowledge and develop necessary advocacy skills and use them to advocate for their rights, access to needed services and systems' changes.**

Activities will support self-advocacy, cross-disability advocacy and leadership training.

3. **Community Building and Engagement: Communities will include people with I/DD as participating, valued members.**

Activities will support and strengthen greater community engagement of people with I/DD; help people improve their self-image; and engage in healthy lifestyles and wellness programs.

What Does The Council Do?

The Developmental Disabilities Council is an independent, self-governing State agency established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1972 and is funded by the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Council membership is by appointment of the Governor and is composed of over sixty percent (60%) persons with developmental disabilities and family members. The Council also includes representatives of State government and other public and private organizations.

The Council's mission is to assure that West Virginia citizens with developmental disabilities receive the services, supports and other forms of assistance they need to exercise self-determination and achieve independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in their communities.

The Council does not provide or manage direct services. Council activities do include training and technical assistance, demonstration of innovative programs, outreach, applied research, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaboration, barrier elimination, and development of citizen coalitions. The Council also works to develop public policy recommendations which promote its vision and mission for supporting people with developmental disabilities. The DD Act also provides a mandate and guidance to states for planning and collaboration among the DD Councils, protection and advocacy programs, and the Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (“the DD Network”).

DD Act Mandate for State Plan Goals

The Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402) (DD Act) and Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities provide guidance to Councils in planning and developing State Plans. Plans must be strategic and work to strengthen **advocacy, build the State's capacity** to meet the needs of people with I/DD and their families, and undertake **systems change** as needed related to the major goal areas that are described. State plans are reviewed and updated as needed annually.

State Councils have flexibility in determining Plan priorities, however, all Councils are required to establish or strengthen **self-advocacy goals** by: a) establishing or strengthening a self-advocacy organization led by persons with developmental disabilities; b) supporting opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to **provide leadership training** to other individuals with developmental disabilities; c) support participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in **cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions**; d) develop a goal or objective to address a **targeted disparity**, a subpopulation of persons with I/DD who are especially vulnerable to inequalities in access to or quality of support they receive.

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

1. SERVICE SYSTEM

Public service systems will be more responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and their families so that the people with I/DD will have better opportunities to learn, work and thrive in their communities.

Objectives	Possible Implementation Activities
<p>1.1 The status and trends in the quality and accessibility of (non-school) services to people with I/DD will be determined.</p>	<p>The Council will support or fund a study regarding the quality and accessibility of human services programs that serve people with I/DD and families. The study will include an analysis of the impact of changes made to the I/DD Waiver program, and will examine other relevant public services that serve people with I/DD. The study will identify service disparities for unserved and underserved groups of people with I/DD in West Virginia. The Council will provide the findings and policy recommendations to State policymakers as a means to strengthen and improve services to people with I/DD.</p>
<p>1.2 The number of people with I/DD who are displaced and/or moved to segregated service settings, or who are harmed due to innapropriate support will decrease as a result of the consistent application of State policies.</p>	<p>The Council will work to have responsible public entities uphold and reaffirm longstanding public policies, including court orders that provide protections for people with I/DD against harmful practices. The Council will facilitate a cross-cutting advisory group to study and report to responsible parties how policies that are intended to protect people are being implemented and how best to address any negative findings.</p>
<p>1.3 Aging parents and other family caregivers will receive education, support and assistance to reduce the risk of out of home or restrictive placement of their family members with I/DD.</p>	<p>The Council will develop training that targets older caregivers about community support options. The Council will also study current emergency planning procedures that impact people with I/DD who rely on public supports.</p>
<p>1.4 More people with co-existing conditions of I/DD and mental illness who are at risk for restrictive or out of home placement will receive timely and adequate supports and services.</p>	<p>Council staff will work with the WV DHHR, child welfare providers, community mental health centers, Division of Juvenile Justice, and advocates to develop policy, practice and training recommendations regarding supports for people with co-existing I/DD and mental illness who are at-risk for out of state placement, nursing home, psychiatric and/or other restrictive programs or treatment.</p>

Objectives	Possible Implementation Activities
1.5 People in institutional facilities with I/DD who have mental illness and/or medical conditions will have access to adequate discharge and transition planning and support.	The Council will work with the WV Division of I/DD and other relevant entities to engage in a national initiative and study to identify promising practices related to diversion from facilities and transition into community support arrangements.
1.6 Workers of State licensed programs that serve people with I/DD will be prepared to take actions that reduce the risk for sexual assault and respond effectively when abuse occurs.	The Council will collaborate with State government, advocates, law enforcement, attorneys and providers to address gaps in personnel training across a range of human services programs. The Council will facilitate a workgroup that will develop recommendations for new uniform and mandatory training requirements for the targeted workforce.
1.7 People with I/DD who have been abused and neglected will have access to Trauma Informed Care in WV.	The Council will continue facilitating a cross-systems advisory group that is developing recommendations to introduce Trauma Informed Care as a core therapy option to address a range of trauma due to abuse.
1.8 A means of collecting and analyzing information and data on the prevalence and patterns of abuse of people with I/DD will be developed.	The Council will facilitate the creation of a representative advisory group that will develop recommendations including possible creation of a mechanism to record and report incidents of abuse and neglect of persons with I/DD.
1.9 Training and preparation requirements for the direct support workforce will be strengthened by the inclusion of nationally recognized core competency skill standards.	The Council will partner with the WV Division of I/DD, Bureau for Medical Services, Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification, DD service providers, WV Advocates, and University Center for Excellence in Disabilities to research and study various training curricula including the College of Direct Supports. The group will develop recommendations for the development or changes to policies, laws or other options as a means to establish a more stable, better paid and supported workforce.

Objectives	Possible Implementation Activities
<p>1.10 More students with I/DD will learn alongside their age peers in regular class settings.</p>	<p>The Council will work with the WV Department of Education and various stakeholders to develop strategies for assuring that the Local Education Agencies consistently carry out the policies and procedures that assist students with I/DD to have access to challenging, inclusive educational opportunities. The Council will support or fund a variety of training for education personnel and families on planning for students with significant support needs; Positive Behavior Support; safeguards against the use of restraint and seclusion and other related training for families.</p>
<p>1.11 Employment First policies and practices will be carried out in WV.</p>	<p>The Council will continue to facilitate a cross-cutting “Employment First” workgroup to incorporate recent federal policies, mandates and legal decisions that have made integrated employment a national priority. Activities will include: study of executive and legislative policy options that would move WV toward becoming an Employment First state; make recommendations regarding workforce training, technical assistance and benefits counseling; investigate strategies to create financial incentives to providers and businesses; and initiate an information/marketing campaign.</p>
<p>1.12 Students with I/DD in all counties will have an opportunity to participate in real, community based work experiences as part of transition to adult living.</p>	<p>The Council will work in partnership with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education, Workforce WV and the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities in the implementation of relevant sections of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Council will assist in educating stakeholders about innovative practices.</p>
<p>1.13 People with I/DD who are not likely to work will have access to and participate in other valued community activities.</p>	<p>In conjunction with responsible State agencies, the Council will coordinate training events and the development of materials to assist providers to plan and support people with I/DD and family members.</p>

2. ADVOCACY AND SELF-ADVOCACY

People with I/DD, their families and allies will gain knowledge and develop necessary advocacy skills and use them to advocate for their rights, access to needed services and systems' changes.

Objectives	Possible Implementation Activities
2.1 People with I/DD will become more active in decisions that affect their lives, including where they live and what they do during the day, through participation in a DD self-advocacy organization.	The Council will fund and support an I/DD led statewide self-advocacy organization. The organization will include outreach, training, and support for youth and teens with I/DD in school transition.
2.2 People with I/DD and family members will actively participate in a cross-disability and culturally diverse advocacy coalition.	The Council will fund and support an organization with membership representing all disability groups. The organization will focus on educating policymakers, and the general public about issues that impact all citizens with disabilities.
2.3 People with I/DD and/or family members will learn leadership skills in order to participate in public policy development.	The Council's self-advocacy and cross-disabilities advocacy will develop leadership training opportunities. The Council will continue to fund and coordinate Partners in Policymaking (PIP) training every other year.
2.4 Parents and other family members will gain knowledge of programs, policies, and a range of community services in order to advocate for necessary supports for their family members.	The Council will provide funds to in-state organizations to support attendance of people with I/DD and their families at statewide conferences and workshops. The Council will develop educational materials concerning community programs for family members.
2.5 People with I/DD will have community members as non-paid advocates.	The Council will fund or support a Citizen Advocacy project that matches community volunteers and people with I/DD who have similar interests.

3. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

Communities will include people with I/DD as participating, valued members.

Objectives	Implementation Activities
<p>3.1 People with I/DD will become more connected and meaningfully involved in the associational life of their local communities.</p>	<p>The Council will fund a Community Building project based on the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model developed by John McKnight. The ABCD model is an approach that discovers how to use the assets of its citizens to solve community problems and act for the common good.</p>
<p>3.2 People with I/DD will have improved health and social connections from their increased participation in integrated, physical activities.</p>	<p>The Council will fund or support activities that provide outdoor recreation combined with healthy lifestyle education, such as eating a balanced, healthy diet.</p>
<p>3.3 Parents will support their family members with I/DD to attain typical and valued experiences in community life, such as being part of a family and home, having friends without disabilities, having a real job, being safe and contributing to the community.</p>	<p>The Council will develop and/or coordinate Social Role Valorization (SRV) training for parents.</p>