

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council is developing its new five-year state plan. This plan guides the work of the Council for federal fiscal 2012 – 2016.. The Council gets input from many sources (people, organizations, state agencies and national trends) to put together the plan. Now it's time to get your input on proposed objectives for our next plan.

The RI DDC's Mission statement is:

**The Developmental Disabilities Council
works within communities
to promote change that:
encourages, inspires, makes it possible
for individuals with disabilities to:
create, pursue and achieve
lives that are personally satisfying...
lives that are Meaningful, Productive, Healthy and Safe.**

Council Goal 1: The RI DDC will develop and carry out a 5-year State Plan based on community need and input that emphasizes inclusion and self-determination for people with developmental disabilities.

Executive Committee

Council Objective 1. Annually, provide and support Leadership Development for 20-25 Council members who are people with developmental disabilities, and their families.

Council Objective 2. Provide technical assistance & long range planning facilitation for Council effectiveness. Develop and implement a process to evaluate the Council's outcomes of selected grantees and activities. Provide organizational consultation as needed. New Council members attend an annual orientation.

Council Objective 3. Develop a comprehensive State Plan that satisfies Federal Guidelines to inform Council activities through the years 2012-2016 and reflects the needs and input of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Council Objective 4. Continue the collaborative working group comprised of the DD Network Agencies; RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC), RI Disability Law Center (P&A) and the Paul Sherlock Center at RI College (UCEDD) and other advocacy organizations. Collaborate on 1 event/year and 2 public education publications.

Council Objective 5. Establish a Community Advisory Board for the RI Developmental Disabilities Council.

Council Objective 6. Provide Public Education/Information about issues and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on employment and job creation. The public will have information they need to make informed choices, in accessible formats. Quarterly publications.

Objective 6a. Establish a Developmental Disabilities Council "Speakers Bureau" for DDC members to share their personal stories/expertise on topics related to the Council's mission.

Council Goal 2: Annually, the RI DDC will monitor state and federal legislation and policy affecting the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities.

Policy Advisory Committee

Council Objective 7. Identify three to five priority or emerging issues for system advocacy. Work with the Executive Committee to provide accessible public information.

Council Goal 3: Increase capacity to enhance or change the system of supports so that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families can participate and be fully included in their communities.

System Advocacy Committee

Council Objective 8. Provide at least 4 informational sessions in the areas of human rights, community safety, sexual abuse and financial exploitation for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and/or law enforcement personnel.

Council Objective 9. Design a statewide forum on Promising Practices by soliciting nominations from individuals and organizations on specific initiatives that complement the Council's mission. Post quarterly on Council website.

Council Objective 10. Continue to promote asset development activities to include statewide training and information sessions and develop at least one new community partnership.

Council Objective 11. Promote, and support concepts of self-determination and self-directed supports. Identify 2 challenges, barriers and/or opportunities associated with these ideas. Identify potential strategies or recommendations to address need areas.

Council Objective 12. Continue to support a Cross-Disability Coalition to address current and emerging issues related to meaningful, productive community inclusion.

Council Goal 4: Support activities designed to increase the capacity of individuals and families to participate fully in their communities.

Individual and Family Advocacy Committee

Council Objective 13. Request and compile positive stories of volunteerism, community service and service learning by people with developmental disabilities. Post quarterly on Council website.

Council Objective 14. Explore and identify community organizations that publicize various opportunities available for social, recreational, and educational purposes. Develop a strategy to share this information.

Council Objective 15. Identify and address two barriers and strategies for increasing the use of technology by people with developmental disabilities in independence, networking and employment.

Council Goal 5: People with developmental disabilities will have their voices heard by being represented at the state leadership level.

Self-Advocacy

Self-advocacy Objective 1. Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to increase statewide leadership skills.

Self-advocacy Objective 2. (with Cross- Disability Coalition) Expand participation of people with developmental disabilities in cross-disability self-advocacy.

Publication of these objectives begins the 45-day public review of the new goals and objectives. To submit comments by U.S. mail, or for more information about the State Plan, please contact Mary Okero at riddc@riddc.org, 401-737-1238, or 400 Bald Hill Road, Suite 515, Warwick, RI 02886. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call 711. The Plan will also be made available in alternate formats on request.