



RHODE ISLAND

Developmental Disabilities Council

Charting a New Course

Overview

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (Councils) are federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their state or territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help these individuals gain more control over their lives.

The 56 Councils across the United States and its territories work to address identified needs by conducting advocacy, systems change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Key activities include conducting outreach, providing training and technical assistance, removing barriers, developing coalitions, encouraging citizen participation, and educating policymakers about disability issues.

To serve their communities, Councils design 5-year state plans that address new ways of improving service delivery for people with developmental disabilities and their families. To implement the state plans, Councils work collaboratively with different community groups, individuals, providers and state agencies; fund and/or administer projects/activities to address system issues and innovative initiatives; and research or seek information from the public and from state and national sources on various systems issues and best practices.

The RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) recently received approval from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) for implementation of a new Five Year Plan for October 1, 2017- September 30, 2022.

Included below is a Summary of the Goals and Objectives approved by AIDD.

State Plan Goals and Objectives FY 2017- 2022

Goal #1: Self Determination, Self-Advocacy, Leadership Development

Description

The RIDDC will collaborate with self-advocacy organizations, Network Partners, State Agencies, and other stakeholders to implement and expand the tenets of self determination, increase the ability and opportunity for people to advocate for themselves and others, and increase the number of individuals who meaningfully participate in policymaking and leadership roles each year of the plan.

Expected Goal Outcome

People with developmental disabilities will be better informed and educated about self-advocacy and self-determination and demonstrate leadership skills by their increased participation in state policy development activities.

Objectives

1. Support, through outreach and direct funding, a statewide self-advocacy group as mandated by the DD Act. Provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in leadership development classes and attend statewide self-advocacy meetings and events. The purpose is to support coalition development efforts to represent the DD community in integrated community activities, conferences, board meetings, etc., to educate and inform policymakers and the general public about systems issues in the DD community.
2. Provide funding and technical assistance to continue to build a statewide advocacy RI Cross Disability Coalition (CDC) to address current and emerging systems issues of people with disabilities related to person directed planning and meaningful, productive community inclusion.
3. Annually support/provide 3 opportunities in which people with developmental disabilities and their families can be engaged in advocacy activities with state and federal policy-makers regarding issues of interest to the developmental disabilities community. At least one of these opportunities annually will accommodate at least 30 people.
4. The Council will participate in interagency collaboration for systems redesign of Person Centered Planning.
5. The Council will increase the participation, effectiveness, and independence of family members in policy and advocacy roles.

Goal #2: Education, Training, and Outreach

Description

The RIDDC will identify outreach efforts to increase the capacity of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, and the public to understand systems issues that are important to people with disabilities, understand and navigate disability and community systems, build leadership and self-advocacy, and support the tenets of self determination.

Expected Goal Outcome

Education of people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers and the general public about various systems issues in RI and access to supports for increased community participation and engagement.

Objectives

1. The Council will support and increase public awareness about the integration, inclusion and self-determination of people with disabilities and other issues of importance to people and their families. The Council will drive social and system change in RI to build positive financial futures and economic empowerment for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
2. The Council will work to eliminate systemic barriers in order to drive social and system change in RI to ensure the protection of human rights, civil rights, and increase self-determination for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
3. The Council and Cross Disability Coalition will collaborate with other partners on system redesign to reduce the incidence of sexual abuse of people with disabilities in RI.
4. The Council will identify, recruit, involve, support, and advance leaders who are people with developmental disabilities or a family member, with a targeted outreach to the Latino community who are vulnerable to disparities and underserved in the DD community in RI.

Goal #3: Advocacy and Policy

Description

The RIDDC will support policies and practice that promote systems change efforts and activities that further advance self determination and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council will identify one to three emerging issues and provide policy recommendations and actions on that issue.

Expected Goal Outcome

Systems Change

Objectives

1. Monitor state and federal legislation and policy. Educate and inform legislators and policymakers as necessary.
2. The Council will be able to address issues that were not foreseen or that have grown to be a priority.
3. Collaborate and plan with the Rhode Island Disability Law Center (P&A) and the Sherlock Center (UCEDD), collectively the DD Network, to research, plan, and develop a Supported Decision Making model for persons with developmental disabilities in RI.
4. The Council will decrease the use of restraint and seclusion through systems change by implementing Trauma Informed Care.
5. The Council will assess and develop methods to increase the use of communication technology by non-verbal individuals with developmental disabilities in order to improve their quality of life.

For more specific information on these Goals and Objectives or on other content of the Five Year Plan contact the RIDDC at riddc@riddc.org or 401-737-1238.