

# THE ALABAMA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## MISSION, VISION AND OVERVIEW

The Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) has a mission to support independence, advocacy, productivity, and inclusion for Alabamians with developmental disabilities.

ACDD is dedicated to the vision that all Alabamians, regardless of disability, will live, learn, work, and play in inclusive communities.

As a result of the Council's projects and initiatives, individuals and families have experienced more access to the many spheres of human life. The Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities is enthusiastic about this progress and is eager to see what the future will hold for people with developmental disabilities as the Council continues to advocate for equality of opportunity for all of Alabama's citizens.

## STATE COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THE DD NETWORK

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) pursue system change in aspects of service/support availability; design or deliver that promote better lives for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Councils:

- Work to improve the capacity of projects to deliver services and supports;
- Support advocacy activities that promote self-determination and inclusion in the community;
- Support demonstration of new approaches;
- Sponsor outreach training;
- Do public education;
- Provide information to policymakers.

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Protection and Advocacy Agencies and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education make up the DD Network in each State.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACT AND BILL OF RIGHTS (P.L.106-402)

Under authority granted under the Developmental Disabilities Act and Bill of Rights (P.L.106-402), the ACDD provides funding consistent with the ACDD 2011-2016 State Plan.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DEFINED

Developmental disabilities (DD) are severe, life-long disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairments, manifested before age 22. Developmental disabilities result in substantial limitations in three or more areas of major life activities: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, capacity for independent living, mobility, economic self-sufficiency, and self-direction. Persons with developmental disabilities require individually planned and coordinated services and supports (e.g., education, civil and human rights protection, health care) for life or for extended period of time in order to live in the community.



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## AREAS OF EMPHASIS

### CHILD CARE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity-building and efforts at system change aimed at providing families of children with developmental disabilities access to and use of child care services; includes before, after and out-of-school care and should be located in families' communities.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Services available or offered in a community, including formal and formal community supports that affect an individual's quality of life.

### EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity-building and efforts at systems change that result in improving access to the support and modifications that individuals with Developmental disabilities need to maximize their educational potential; benefit from lifelong education; participate in all aspects of student life.

### EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity-building and efforts at systems change that result in improved opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to get, keep or advance in paid employment, including supported or self-employment; work in integrated, community settings.

### HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity building and efforts at systems change that result in access for individuals with developmental disabilities to coordinate health, mental health, preventive health programs and other human and social services.

### HOUSING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity building and efforts at system change that result in access for individuals with developmental disabilities to housing and housing supports and services, such as assistance with renting, owning or modifying an apartment or home.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity building and efforts at system change aimed at establishing systems to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities do not experience physical or sexual abuse, neglect, financial exploitation or violation of their legal or human rights; and are not subject to inappropriate restraint or seclusion. Quality assurance activities also include (1) training in leadership, self-determination and self-advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and their guardians; and (2) activities related to interagency coordination and integration of service systems.

### RECREATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity building and efforts at systems change that lead to improved access to and use of community recreational, leisure and social activities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

### TRANSPORTATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Advocacy, capacity building and efforts at system change that lead to improved access to and use of transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities.