MISSION

The mission according to the federal DD Act is to engage in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities.

- self-determination
- independence
- productivity
- integration and inclusion

VISION

All individuals with I/DD are participating, equally-included members of their communities who:

- 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 and affect policy and process decisions that affect their lives
- have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship as does any other New Jersey resident

GOALS

The NJCDD Five-Year State Planning Goals for fiscal years (FY) 2017–2021 focus on several areas of significance including but not limited to:

- Self-Advocacy
- Family Training and Information
- Direct Support Staffing Issues
- Special Education Advocacy
- Employment
- Transportation
- Health and wellness
- Housing

The NJCDD addresses these needs through systems change and capacity-building efforts that promote self-determination, integration and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.
ACTIVITIES

Regional Family Support Planning Councils:
Operate statewide, in all 21 New Jersey counties, for education and long-term support for families of individuals with I/DD

People First New Jersey:
Local chapters help individuals with I/DD speak for themselves, help each other, and make sure their collective voices are heard.

Youth Leadership Training Program:
School-based training sessions teach young people with I/DD a variety of skills needed to become better self-advocates.

Partners in Policy Making:
An 8-month leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities (over age 18) and family members.

PUBLIC POLICY

The NJCDD has taken positions and made clarifying statements regarding:

- Deinstitutionalization
- Direct Support Professionals
- Education
- Restraints and Seclusion
- Employment
- Disability Rights

GRANTS

NJCDD issues grant funding to promote the five-year plan’s goals and objectives. Each fiscal year, the Council issues requests for funding proposals and accepts proposals from qualified applicants. Grants may be awarded on a single or multi-year basis. Community Innovation Project and Leadership Training Support Fund applications are open all year for submission.

PUBLICATIONS

People & Families:
A nationally-recognized quarterly publication highlighting organizations, programs, and people who make positive changes for individuals with I/DD and their families.

NJ Common Ground:
Published three times per year, Common Ground shares information about issues impacting students with disabilities with a broad range of stakeholders – general education teachers, parents, legislators, speech therapists, and others.

Advocacy in Action E-Newsletter:
Provides important announcements and updates about the Council’s activities, grants, and special initiatives. It also includes key information about public policies and other news items.

Disability Focus Blog:
Highlights important news, legislation, and current events that affect people with developmental disabilities and their families. Disability Focus provides commentary on issues that matter and new trends in our communities.