

The NJCDD is federally authorized through the Developmental Disabilities Act as a self-governing organization charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families in New Jersey and by advancing public policy and systems change activities.

MISSION



To champion and advance advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building activities that honor the rich diversity of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families in creating structural change with lasting impact that promotes **self-determination, community integration and inclusion.**

VISION



All individuals with I/DD and their families have the resources, education and support to:

- ◆ make real choices and have control;
- ◆ have the freedom to strive and excel;
- ◆ achieve personal goals; and
- ◆ have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities as all New Jerseyans.

COMMITMENT



Reach all New Jerseyans with I/DD and their families by embracing cultural competence and linguistic responsiveness, and focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion in our activities that provide opportunities for:

- ◆ self-determination;
- ◆ independence;
- ◆ productivity;
- ◆ community and individualized supports; and
- ◆ inclusion in all aspects of community life.

GOALS



In accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act 2000, the NJCDD develops and implements Five-Year State Planning Goals.

The NJCDD Five Year State planning goals for fiscal years 2022-2026 focus on Advocacy, Systems Change, and Capacity-Building.

Goal 1 Advocacy:

Advocacy skills training and support for people with disabilities

Goal 2 Systems Change:

Help people with disabilities and their families improve the state service system

Goal 3 Capacity Building:

Help people with disabilities and their families get support and information needed to live in the community

ACTIVITIES



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.

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.

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
- ◆ Healthcare Access
- ◆ Disability Rights
- ◆ Housing, Employment, Transportation

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



NJCDD produces a variety of free resource materials for individuals with I/DD and their families including, but not limited to:

People & Families:

A nationally-recognized 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.

Eye on Advocacy Weekly E-Newsletter:

Eye on Advocacy weekly e-newsletter published every Tuesday focuses on important news and events for individuals with I/DD and their families.

Disability in Focus Blog:

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