

Empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families through education and advocacy





The Regional Family Support
Planning Councils (RFSPCs) were
created by the 1993 Family
Support Act to make sure people
with disabilities and their families
have a voice in planning and
decisions about services. There
are 10 RFSPCs representing all of
the counties in New Jersey.

Though monthly local meetings monthly local meetings, RFSPCs:

- Bring together people with disabilities and their family members to share their experiences accessing the service delivery system and what they have learned along the way.
- Help people with disabilities and their family members understand and navigate complex state systems.
- Listen to the challenges, concerns, and successes of people with disabilities and their family members and share them with state agencies to improve services and supports.
- Share tools and resources that empower people with disabilities and their family members to become effective advocates.

WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

Lisa Fitton (RFSPC member)

Transitioning from school-based children's services to community-based adult services is often referred to as "falling off the cliff." Being a member of the Monmouth-Ocean RFSPC has been my lifeline. Through my RFSPC, I met people with similar life experiences, who have first-hand knowledge of how to access DDD services, and who know how to effectively advocate for their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a result of my involvement, not only have I made genuine, life-enhancing friendships, I have also become more empowered to effect change, so that others might remain on high ground, as well.

CURRENT ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Protecting the Health and Safety of People with Disabilities Living Outside their Family Home
- Supporting People with Disabilities and their Families in Planning for the Future as they Age
- Helping Families Understand and Navigate the Children's System of Care services
- Promoting Effective Person-Centered Approaches to Planning and Advocacy Throughout the Lifespan
- Visit our website to learn about our advocacy accomplishments.



609-292-3745 rfspc@njcdd.org

> Interpreter available through Language Line

NJCDD C/O Family Support PO Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700



..... SUPPORTED BY