

MISSION



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

To ensure that individuals with intellectual and or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in New Jersey, and their families, participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance.

- ◆ 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



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 (FY) 2022–2026 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.

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

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.