



## PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA – PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENTS

**CIVIL RIGHTS:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have the same human and civil rights as other West Virginians.

**SELF-DETERMINATION:** Protect the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to direct their own lives as other West Virginians.

**HOME & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have access to high quality and accountable formal and informal support to live, work, socialize and belong in their home and community, including a well-funded IDD Waiver.

**DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE:** Strengthen the recruitment, retention, and professional development of the direct care workforce by ensuring competitive wages, comprehensive benefits, professional support, and training programs—recognizing this workforce as vital to the well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD).

**HEALTH CARE:** Individuals with developmental disabilities have access to comprehensive and quality health care through low-cost insurance and medications.

**EDUCATION:** Support students in reaching their full potential through access to early intervention, inclusive education, and post-secondary opportunities from highly qualified and well-trained professionals.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities for meaningful employment, competitive wages, and career advancement to create value for themselves and their communities, especially in rural areas of West Virginia where transportation is a barrier.

**ACCESS TO COMMUNITY LIVING:** Individuals with developmental disabilities have a right to meaningful participation and equal access within their community.

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is a 32-member organization established by an Executive Order of the Governor on March 6, 1972. The Council is administratively supported by the West Virginia Department of Health and is funded by a grant under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-402 or DD Act).

### THE COUNCIL'S MISSION

*To assure West Virginians with developmental disabilities receive the services, supports and opportunities they need to achieve independence, productivity, integration and inclusion into the community of their choice.*

The Council consists of citizens with developmental disabilities, family members and representatives from state and private organizations concerned with the provision of services to people with developmental disabilities. Over 60% are citizen members who are appointed by the Governor for a four-year term.

The Council is a self-governing organization authorized in accordance with the federal DD Act. One way the Council creates system change is by working with and advising leaders in state government and the state legislature. The Council can provide information, perspective, ideas, and analysis about how legislation and policies will affect people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families.

The Council creates system change by taking the lead on issues, partnering with other entities, and engaging others to consult on policies and laws that affect people with DD and their families.

The Council's Public Policy Agenda is supported by existing state and/or federal laws, regulations, policies, and legal precedence. We advocate for these to be fully implemented and/or funded in a manner that includes accountability, quality assurance and quality improvement. These eight Public Policy Agenda areas provide the framework for the Council's federally required work and advocacy efforts.