

**West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
Five Year State Plan
FFY 2017-2021
Approved July 28, 2020**

What Does The Council Do?

The Developmental Disabilities Council is an independent, self-governing State agency established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1972 and is funded by the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Council membership is by appointment of the Governor and is composed of over sixty percent (60%) persons with developmental disabilities and family members. The Council also includes representatives of State government and other public and private organizations.

The Council's mission is to assure that West Virginia citizens with developmental disabilities receive the services, supports and other forms of assistance they need to exercise self-determination and achieve independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in their communities.

The Council does not provide or manage direct services. Council activities do include training and technical assistance, demonstration of innovative programs, outreach, applied research, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaboration, barrier elimination, and development of citizen coalitions. The Council also works to develop public policy recommendations which promote its vision and mission for supporting people with developmental disabilities. The DD Act also provides a mandate and guidance to states for planning and collaboration among the DD Councils, protection and advocacy programs, and the Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities ("the DD Network").

Developing the State Plan

The federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402) (DD Act) provides guidance to State Councils in planning, including the requirement that Plans must be based in part on the direct input of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The West Virginia Council coordinated activities during the Fall of 2015 and Spring of 2016 that encouraged people to provide their views on a wide range of issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. Nearly six hundred (600) people participated in thirteen (13) public forums, eight (8) focus groups or completed the Council Service Needs Survey with approximately 70% people with I/DD or family members taking part in the needs gathering activities.

This Plan seeks to strengthen advocacy and self-advocacy coalitions; improve how public services are provided to people with I/DD and their families; provide greater assurances that people with I/DD will be protected from abuse, isolation and neglect; improve opportunities for children to be educated in inclusive classrooms; facilitate efforts to improve supports for people who want to work; and assist and support communities in welcoming people with I/DD.

Council State Plan Goals

1. **Service System: Public service systems will be more responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and their families so that the people with I/DD will have better opportunities to learn, work and thrive in their communities.**

Activities will be carried out to address improvements in the service systems' performance in critical areas such as: the use of person-centered approaches; the development and retention of a quality workforce; and the assurance of personal safety and rights protections.

2. **Advocacy:** People with I/DD, their families and allies will gain knowledge and develop necessary advocacy skills and use them to advocate for their rights, access to needed services and systems' changes.

Activities will support self-advocacy, cross-disability advocacy and leadership training.

3. **Community Building and Engagement:** Communities will include people with I/DD as participating, valued members.

Activities will support and strengthen greater community engagement of people with I/DD; help people improve their self-image; and engage in healthy lifestyles and wellness programs.

Plans must be strategic and work to strengthen **advocacy, build the State's capacity** to meet the needs of people with I/DD and their families, and undertake **systems change** as needed related to the major goal areas that are described. State plans are reviewed and updated as needed annually.

State Councils have flexibility in determining Plan priorities, however, all Councils are required to establish or strengthen **self-advocacy goals** by: a) establishing or strengthening a self-advocacy organization led by persons with developmental disabilities; b) supporting opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to **provide leadership training** to other individuals with developmental disabilities; and c) supporting participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in **cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions**. Also, each Council must develop a goal or objective to address a **targeted disparity**, a subpopulation of persons with I/DD who are especially vulnerable to inequalities in access to or quality of support they receive.

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

1. SERVICE SYSTEM

Public service systems will be more responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and their families so that the people with I/DD will have better opportunities to learn, work and thrive in their communities.

Objectives	Planned Implementation Activities
<p>1.1 By 1/15/19 (and annually thereafter), the Council, in collaboration with the DD Network, will produce and disseminate an annual report on publicly funded community based services and trends for people with I/DD specific to eligibility, access to services, impact of service delivery, and choice and control of supports.</p>	<p>The Council will create and annually update its Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA) of the state's services, supports, and other assistance available to people with I/DD and their families. In addition to the DD Act required CRA reporting sections, The Council, WVUCED and DRWV will gather, compile and examine information on the impact of changes made to the I/DD Waiver program, and will examine other relevant public services that serve people with I/DD and identify service disparities for unserved and underserved groups of people with I/DD in West Virginia. The Council will provide the CRA report findings and policy recommendations to State policymakers as a means to strengthen and improve services to people with I/DD.</p>
<p>1.2 Each year of the Plan, the Council will collaborate with the DD Network to address mutual state plan goals and objectives.</p>	<p>The Council, DRWV, and the WVU CED will work within the framework of a Memorandum of Agreement to conduct regular planning meetings to prioritize activities and initiatives.</p>
<p>1.3 Each year of the Plan, Council staff and members will engage in public policy advocacy through monitoring and attending each legislative session, as well as on-going participation on a range of policy advisory groups to improve or sustain essential public programs that support people with I/DD and their families.</p>	<p>The Council's Advocacy Specialist will monitor each legislative session and any proposed bills that impact people with I/DD and their families. Council staff will also educate lawmakers on the Council's mission and positions on access to healthcare, community supports, education, and employment. The Council will actively participate in the legislative process by commenting on language of specific bills and meeting with lawmakers. Council staff and members participate on a range of advisory groups related to the I/DD Waiver, Olmstead, Birth to Three programs, assistive technology, employment, protection of children from abuse, guardianship and cross-systems collaboration, and the Medicaid LTSS committee.</p>
<p>1.4 Each year of the Plan, the Council will provide on-going consultation to the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities and other agencies to develop a statewide network of professionals to provide assessment, consultation and crisis support planning assistance to families and providers of youth and adults with co-existing conditions of I/DD and mental illness.</p>	<p>Council staff will participate on a range of working groups, including those led by the WV DHHR, that include child welfare providers, community mental health centers, Division of Juvenile Justice, and advocates to develop policy, practice and training recommendations to support youth and adults with co-existing I/DD and mental illness who are at-risk for out of state placement, psychiatric and/or other restrictive programs or treatment.</p>

<p>1.5 By 9/30/21, the Council, in collaboration with DRWV, Office of the Secretary, DHHR, Olmstead Council and the SB 575 Monitoring Committee will propose new or modified protections by policy or procedure that strengthen the prohibition of admission of people into State psychiatric hospitals due to their I/DD, and improves how community supports are provided to people in institutional facilities who have I/DD in combination with mental illness and/or health conditions.</p>	<p>The Council will work with the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, the Olmstead Council, and other relevant entities to engage in, study, and identify promising practices related to diversion from placements in facilities and transition into community support arrangements.</p> <p>Workgroups and committees will also include the SB 575 Monitoring Committee to provide guidance on the DHHR's options for community based services for people at-risk for ICF/IID placement.</p> <p>Council staff will also meet with DRWV to review and discuss DHHR's Policy 8114 relative to change of placement and make recommendations to the DHHR.</p>
<p>1.6 By 9/30/20, and annually thereafter, the Council will collaborate with members of WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) to identify gaps, prioritize needs, and design strategies for addressing gaps in sexual violence prevention programming targeting people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Council staff will participate in a collaborative made up of staff from the WVFRIS, the Bureau for Behavioral Health, the Bureau for Public Health, our DD Network Partners, Centers for Independent Living, and others to review current training, identify gaps and begin to design strategies for addressing gaps in training needed to address the issue of sexual violence prevention related to people with disabilities, including people with I/DD.</p>
<p>1.7 By 9/30/21, the Council will provide consultation to the DHHR-in the development of a model for providing promising practices for Trauma Informed Care to people with I/DD who have experienced psychological trauma as a result of abuse and mistreatment.</p>	<p>Through a grant with the Center for Human Engagement, the Council will demonstrate a means for expanding knowledge about and access to Trauma Informed Care (TIC) for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.</p>
<p>1.8 By 9/30/21, the Council will make recommendations for reporting & documenting the abuse & neglect of children or adults with I/DD, including information about the circumstances of the abuse, by State CPS & APS workers and incorporated into the State's Information Management System (IMS).</p>	<p>The Council will meet with the WV CAN and WV FRIS to develop recommendations for new abuse/neglect reporting procedures including the possible creation of a mechanism to record and report incidents of abuse and neglect specific to persons with I/DD.</p>
<p>1.9 By 9/30/21, the Council will collaborate with other advocacy organizations on developing goals and strategies for students' Individualized Education Programs that foster inclusion of students with I/DD in typical classrooms and school functions and activities.</p>	<p>The Council will work with advocacy organizations to develop strategies for assuring that the Local Education Agencies consistently carry out the policies and procedures that assist students with I/DD to have access to challenging, inclusive educational opportunities. The Council will support or fund a variety of training for education personnel and families on planning for students with significant support needs. Advocacy organizations will include DRWV and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC).</p>

<p>1.10 By 9/30/21, the DD Council, in collaboration with members of its Employment First Workgroup, will develop initiatives that will increase opportunities for young people with I/DD to have community work experiences and all working age people with I/DD to gain valued, integrated employment.</p>	<p>The Council will continue to facilitate a cross-cutting <u>Employment First</u> workgroup to develop recommendations for incorporating Federal employment service directives into relevant State programs and services, as well as strategies for creating financial incentives to providers and businesses. The Council will work with policymakers to establish an Employment First policy through legislation and/or a Governor's Executive order, and then collaborate with key State agencies affected by the mandate to develop procedures to implement the policy. The Council will also fund or support the development of educational materials for families and people with I/DD to assist them in increasing expectations and accessing competitive integrated employment.</p>
<p>1.11 By 9/30/21, the Council will monitor efforts by the State Department of Education and Division of Rehabilitation Services to assure that students with I/DD in all counties of the State have opportunities to participate in real, community based work experiences as part of transition to adult living.</p>	<p>The Council will work in partnership with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Education to monitor the implementation of relevant sections of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Council will assist in educating stakeholders about effective practices.</p>
<p>1.12 By 9/30/21, the Council will bring together stakeholders to discuss the apparent disparity in reported data showing high incidences of African American and black students placed in Behavior Disorder classrooms and less than expected diagnosis of autism.</p>	<p>The Council will work with the Department of Education, members of the African American community, Autism Training Center, and the WVUCED to review data and gather information to determine how to address whether African American and black students are being diagnosed as having behavior disorders rather than autism.</p>

2. ADVOCACY AND SELF-ADVOCACY

People with I/DD, their families and allies will gain knowledge and develop necessary advocacy skills and use them to advocate for their rights, access to needed services and systems' changes.

Objectives	Planned Implementation Activities
<p>2.1 Each year of the Plan, the Council will fund an independent statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with I/DD that will assist 250 people with I/DD to learn ways to make more decisions that affect their lives including where they live and what they do during the day.</p>	<p>The Council will fund an I/DD led statewide self-advocacy organization. The organization will include outreach, training, and support for youth and teens with I/DD in school transition.</p>
<p>2.2 Each year of the Plan, the Council will support and expand participation of people with I/DD, families and organizations in coalitions that represent diverse disability groups.</p>	<p>The Council will fund a cross-disability advocacy organization with a membership that represents I/DD, mental health and other groups. The organization will focus on educating policymakers, and the general public about issues that impact all citizens with disabilities.</p>

<p>2.3 Each year of the Plan, the Council will support opportunities for people with I/DD to provide leadership training to other individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.</p>	<p>The Council's self-advocacy grantees will provide leadership training opportunities for youth and adults with I/DD.</p>
<p>2.4 Each year of the Plan, the Council will provide funding and other supports so that parents and family members will gain knowledge of programs, policies and a range of community services in order to advocate for necessary supports for their family members.</p>	<p>The Council will provide funds to in-state organizations to support attendance of people with I/DD and their families at statewide conferences and workshops through its Designated Stipend Program. The Council may also develop position papers, policy analysis papers, parent guides, and educational videos on a range of topics. The Council will also conduct <u>Partners in Policymaking (PIP)</u> training every other year.</p>
<p>2.5 By 9/30/21, the Council will study the efficacy and viability of a funded project that would match people with I/DD with community volunteers as non-paid advocates.</p>	<p>The Council will investigate support by community associations, organizations, and potential funders of the likely sustainability of a Citizen Advocacy project that matches community volunteers as advocates for people with I/DD.</p>
<p>2.6 By 9/30/21, the Council will work to establish "Supported Decision Making" statewide as a recognized alternative to guardianship for people with I/DD.</p>	<p>Collaborate with the DRWV (P&A) and other members of the WV Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) to formulate policy recommendations, operational documents and legislation that work to make "Supported Decision Making" a viable statewide option for people with I/DD.</p>
<p>2.7 By 9/30/21, the Council, will collaborate with BoSS and BBH on the development of an information toolkit for aging family caregivers of people with I/DD to help them be more aware of relevant public and private community resources.</p>	<p>The Council will solicit the development of training that targets older caregivers about community support options.</p>

3. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

Communities will include people with I/DD as participating, valued members.

Objectives	Implementation Activities
<p>3.1 By 9/30/20, the Council will sponsor a demonstration project of how at least 15 people with I/DD can be successfully supported to join with non-disabled neighbors to develop and participate in local improvement projects or initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all in their communities.</p>	<p>The Council will fund a pilot demonstration project that uses community building principles to involve people with I/DD in collaborative projects to improve neighborhoods and towns. The project will support community leaders who recognize that all citizens have a part to play in community improvement and solving community problems.</p>

<p>3.2 Each year of the Plan, the Council will provide and/or sponsor training to up to 30 family members on how to assist their family members with I/DD attain and maintain age-appropriate and socially valued lives.</p>	<p>The Council will develop and coordinate training events on Social Role Valorization and training on safeguarding the lives of people with developmental disabilities.</p>
<p>3.3 By 9/30/21, the Council will support or provide training for up to 75 family members, advocates, and DD service personnel in the development of meaningful goals and strategies in service plans for people who are not likely to work full time.</p>	<p>Form a workgroup to explore how to use Person-Centered Planning methods such as MAPs or PATHs as tools to identify meaningful community activities and viable and meaningful supports for people with I/DD.</p>

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