

# 2025 West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council IMPACT REPORT



*The Council's mission is to ensure that West Virginians with developmental disabilities make their own choices, live independently, are productive, and included in their community.*

## \$17.5 Million in Leveraged Funds

The Council leveraged \$17,528,000 in resources throughout WV. This equals 23 times our annual federal allocation. The Council is 100% federally funded.



## Increasing Advocacy

Up to 92% of people with disabilities and family members reported increasing their advocacy as a result of participating in Council activities.



## Self-Advocate of the Year

West Virginia People First chose Council Member, Christen Dougherty, as their Self-Advocate of the Year. Christen is very active in her community. She participates in statewide advocacy, tennis, modeling, dance, and hanging out with friends.



## Matching Funds

The Council awards grant funds to community providers who show innovative and cost-effective ways to support people with developmental disabilities. Grantees provided three times the required matching funds. This year grantees provided \$209,037 in matching funds. The dedication of our grantees results in more funding being invested in our communities statewide, and less reliance on federal funding.

## 94% Satisfaction Rate

Up to 94% of people with disabilities and family members reported they were highly satisfied with Council activities and used what they learned in everyday life.



## 1,476 Participating in Council Activities

1,476 people with developmental disabilities, family members and others participated in Council activities related to advocacy, community building and engagement, and service system improvements.

## Statewide Medicaid Waiver Rates

The Council joined people with disabilities, family members, advocates, providers and stakeholders to educate and advocate for higher pay rates for direct care workers of Medicaid Waiver Programs. The state legislature and Governor enacted a 15% rate increase for the IDD Waiver, Aged and Disabled Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver.

## 2,010 Volunteer Hours

The Council had over 2,010 volunteer hours contributed to making West Virginia communities more inclusive for people with developmental disabilities. This equates to \$78,000 worth of volunteer time. Volunteer hours equate to 11% of our federal award.



## 83,956 Outreach Contacts

People First of WV, through a Council grant, made 83,956 unique interactions with West Virginians through in-person and virtual events, mailings, and social media outlets. This is compared to 45,152 contacts last year.



## 1,054 People Trained

1,054 people with developmental disabilities and/or family members participated in Council training or education activities throughout the year under systems change goals.

## Youth Advocates

The Council hosted a 2-day leadership advocacy workshop prior to the 2025 legislative session. A group of seven students from a local county self-contained classroom attended. The students were so motivated, they asked their teacher to take them to disability advocacy day at the legislature. They participated in advocacy activities, including meeting with their legislators and one student was interviewed by a local radio show. They were proud to use what they learned to tell their story and advocate for disability rights.



## Expectations Matter

Expectations Matter, a Council demonstration grant, trains people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be trainers on self-determination and person-centered planning.

One participant said, "Expectations Matter gave me a new perspective on how important it is to empower individuals with disabilities to advocate for themselves with their staff and family." Another stated, "Our voice is more than sound and volume, it is a sense of identity. It holds the ability to carry conviction and ignite change."



## Coming Home: A Film Premiere

The Council released the film, Coming Home: Before and After Deinstitutionalization in WV to a registered audience of over 250 people at the WV Culture Center. The film was chosen to premiere at the WV International Film Festival. The film has been viewed over 455 times on YouTube. One online viewer noted, "This is one of the best documentaries I've ever seen. I have been working in disability inclusion for decades. We all need to be vigilant to ensure we NEVER go back. Warehousing people is not the answer. We need to work together to make sure people with disabilities gets to live ordinary lives."

## Leadership

222 people with developmental disabilities and family members participating in Council activities are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions. This is an increase of 102 people when compared to last year.



**For more information, visit [ddc.wv.gov](http://ddc.wv.gov) or call 304-558-0418.**

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