



Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council 2015 Annual Report to the Citizens of Massachusetts

Providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.

Our Purpose

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent agency funded by the federal government to work with the state of Massachusetts to better support people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Beliefs

Individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live full, productive and independent lives in the community. Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

Our Report to the Citizens

We are pleased to present our annual *Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth*. This report is also available on the Council website www.mass.gov/mddc. We encourage you to give us feedback. Please send all questions and comments to craig.hall@state.ma.us.

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Chances are you know someone with a developmental disability

Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that over 152,000 citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have a developmental disability.

Lydia Brown Elected Council Chairperson



The Council elected **Lydia Brown** as its newest chairperson in 2015. At age 22, Brown is the youngest person in the country to serve as Chair of a Developmental Disabilities Council. In this new role, Brown will work closely with Council staff leadership and state and federal policymakers to continue the Council's efforts to promote self-sufficiency, community inclusion and opportunity for all people with developmental disabilities.

What We Do

- Work to improve the system of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by bringing advocates together with lawmakers to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included in public policy decisions.
- Foster partnerships with disability advocacy groups and support initiatives that help to build the self-confidence, interpersonal and leadership and skills that people with developmental disabilities need to live independently and play active roles in their communities.
- Serve as an impartial educational resource, informing public policy at the local, state and federal levels, to better meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Council Staff Recognized for Outstanding Performance



Lee Larriu, Council Training Coordinator, received the Manuel Carballo Award for Excellence in Public Service. This award is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' highest honor. Under Lee's leadership, the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series has tripled in size and scope, received national acclaim, and is now being replicated in other states.



Andre Williams, Council Leadership Trainer, was honored by Vinfen with the Craig Smith Self-Advocate Award. The award is named for Craig Smith, a tireless advocate and the founding chairperson of Mass Advocates Standing Strong. Andre was recognized for his outstanding leadership in self-advocacy and for serving as a superb role model for other self-advocates.

Policy Director Elected to NACDD Board



Kristin Britton, Council Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) in 2015. Kristin also serves as a member of NACDD's Public Policy Team. The NACDD, based in Washington DC, supports the work of the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) across the United States and its territories.

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Goals and Objectives: Measuring Results

Highlighting Key Measures

Goal	Objective 1 Status	Objective 2 Status	Objective 3 Status	Objective 4 Status	Objective 5 Status	Key Events & Outcomes (Our Measures)
1. Transition	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	<u>Obj. 1.5</u> – 13 institutions of higher education included students with intellectual disabilities on their campuses.
2. Leadership	Met	Met	~	~	~	<u>Obj. 2.1</u> – 66 students graduated from the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series.
3. Employment	Partially Met	Met	~	~	~	<u>Obj. 3.1</u> – 588 people were trained through 44 Explore Prepare Act trainings on interviews and portfolio building.
4. Supporting Families	Met	Met	~	~	~	<u>Obj. 4.1</u> – \$4.0 million dollars in new funding for individualized family support services was leveraged.
5. Homes	Met	Met	~	~	~	<u>Obj. 5.1</u> – 35 individuals and family members received extensive training to pursue person-centered housing.
6. Community Supports	Met	Met	Met	~	~	<u>Obj. 6.2</u> – 582 individuals were trained to access insurance under the Autism law.
7. Self-Determination	Met	Met	~	~	~	<u>Obj. 7.1</u> – 533 individuals were trained to utilize self-directed supports.

*Note: This chart was derived from our 2015 Program Performance Report. The full report can be viewed by visiting <https://www.ddsuite.org/search/>.
Note: The “~” symbol indicates no goal data collected for this objective.*



Partnership for Person-Centered Housing

In September 2014 the Council partnered with Autism Housing Pathways, an organization dedicated to helping families create housing for their family members with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, to train families on how to create person-centered housing using available supports and finances. More than 35 individuals and family members participated in these activities. Three found housing outside their family’s home, six applied for Section 8 housing, two applied for project based Section 8, two applied for MassHealth, five participated in daily living skills training and four created a special needs trust. One of the survey respondents stated, “Great program. It extended my understanding of housing and government programs. I learned steps towards newly identified goals. Extremely important program.”



Inaugural Independence College a Huge Success!

The Council undertook a pilot initiative to provide a unique educational opportunity to teach teenagers and young adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities skills that will assist them in gaining independence. The program includes a core curriculum and elective options, and a practicum that must be completed in order to graduate.

Eleven students (pictured) successfully graduated from the pilot initiative in 2015, and over 40 students have applied to enroll in year two.

Federal Policy Update

The Council educated members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation on Federal policies that impact people with developmental disabilities, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid’s Home and Community Based Services. Pictured is Senator Warren and Council members.



And the winner is...

The Council undertook a statewide public awareness campaign highlighting the contributions people with developmental disabilities make in the workforce. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities working in the community submitted photos of themselves and wrote about their job. More than 900 people voted for their favorite on the Council’s Facebook page. **Jill Alongi** of Braintree, employed by Stop and Shop Supermarket Company, took first place. Jill (pictured) received Council support to attend a disability related conference or training event of her choice.




Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

Source of Revenue	2015 Revenue (in \$)
Federal Funding	\$1,304,716.04
Commonwealth Non-Financial Match	\$277,502.80
Sub-Grantee Match	\$150,827.03
Developmental Disabilities Suite	\$216,572.04
Total Revenue	\$1,949,617.91

The **financial mission** of the Council is to maximize the use of our federal awards, while leveraging additional resources from the Commonwealth, our grantees and other collaborations and partnerships, to meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives. The matching goal was met during the first four years (2012-2015).

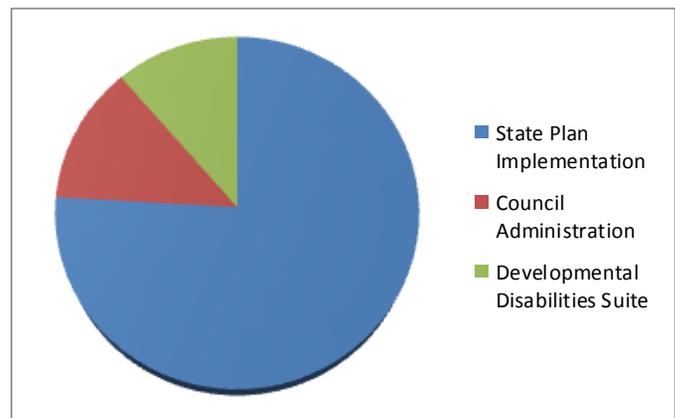
Note: The Council is funded through a federal formula grant and is authorized under Subtitle B of Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000, and through state Executive Order #512.

Independent Audit

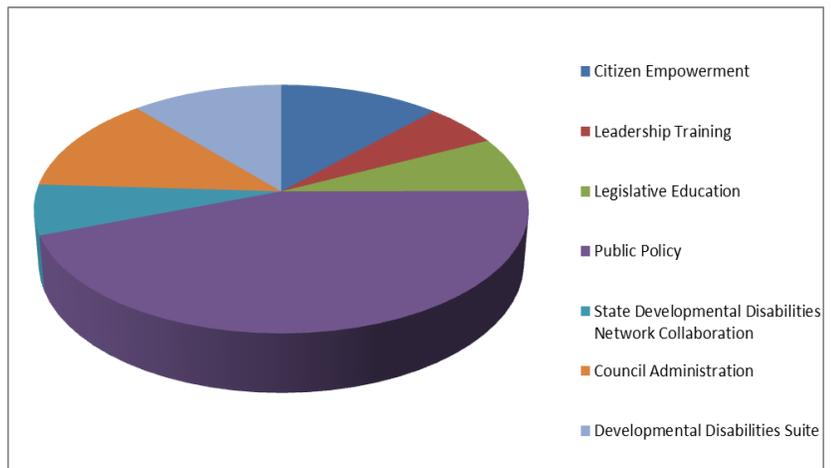
The Council participated in the independent audit, receiving a clean opinion. Complete financial information is available at www.mass.gov/osc.

Expenses

By Functional Area	2015 Expense (in \$)
State Plan Implementation	\$1,475,641.34
Council Administration	\$257,404.53
Developmental Disabilities Suite	\$216,572.04
Total Expenses	\$1,949,617.91



By Major Activity Area	2015 Expense (in \$)
Citizen Empowerment	\$146,062.14
Leadership Training	\$157,279.13
Legislative Education	\$156,965.75
Public Policy	\$842,935.27
State Developmental Disabilities Network Collaboration	\$172,399.05
Council Administration	\$257,404.53
Developmental Disabilities Suite	\$216,572.04
Total Expenses	\$1,949,617.91



What We Do: Our Primary Program Areas

The Council has two primary program areas. The **functional area** divides the organization by our program and administrative activities.

The **major activity areas** identify the program activities we undertake to successfully meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives.

A Model of Transparency



The Council's 2014 report received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants for advancing government accountability. The logo recognizes the importance of a citizen focused initiative for financial reporting.



2012-2016 State Plan: Year 5

Independent State Plan Evaluation

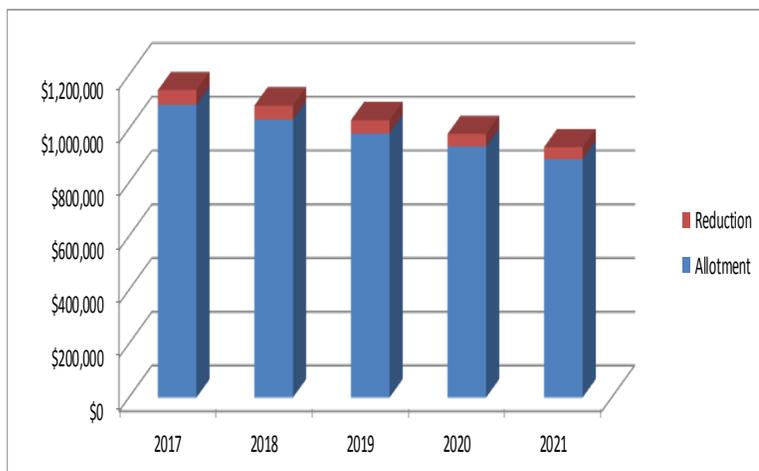
The Council awarded a grant to the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University to evaluate the current five-year State Plan (2012-2016.) The purpose of the evaluation is to review the Council's methods for determining if goals have been achieved, and provide recommendations to improve the process.

The Lurie Institute will perform summative and formative evaluations using qualitative and quantitative methods centered around three important goals:

1. Determine if the procedures and data collection methods used were effective to accurately measure results.
2. Determine if the outputs and outcomes used were effective indicators of results.
3. Provide recommendations for improving the Council's ability to effectively measure and report progress towards achieving State Plan goals and objectives.

Budget Planning: The Next Five Year Forecast

In addition to an independent evaluation of the current State Plan, proactively establishing a planning committee, the Council has preliminarily forecast the federal funding for the next five-year State Plan. Although funding is contingent upon the President and Congress, trend analysis and projected federal spending can be assessed for planning purposes. The Council forecasts an annual budget reduction of approximately \$50,000. The information provides the Council with a funding base for its next State Plan goals.



State Plan Committee: The Next Five Year Cycle

The next State Plan will cover the years 2017-2021. The Council's State Plan Committee, although in the early stage of planning for the next State Plan cycle, will be examining the detailed responses of community survey results to date, which may offer insight into future priorities of the Council.

Beginning in 2017 the U.S. Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will require Councils to include a goal and or objective for:

- Self Advocacy and leadership; and
- Meeting the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in diverse populations.

Finishing Business: Final Year of State Plan

2016 marks the last year of the current five-year State Plan. The Council, as part of the annual amendment process completed a comprehensive review and analysis. This also included an analysis of state issues and challenges. This provided for rationale for goal selection and continuation during the last year of the current five-year State Plan. The process included public input and review. Revisions to the State Plan were made after taking into account and responding to significant public comments.

Critical Issues and Barriers

The Council has identified a number of critical issues and barriers impacting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families still to be addressed. These include:

- **Supporting Self-Advocacy:** More effort is needed to compensate more self-advocates for the valuable contributions they make and services they provide.
- **Leadership Development:** Resources are inadequate to develop and support leaders to the extent needed to maintain long-term leadership in the disability advocacy community.

These are areas of focus for the final year of the Council's State Plan.

Maintaining High Customer Satisfaction

The Council conducts customer satisfaction surveys for projects and activities held or funded by the Council. Survey results help determine the impact of our efforts on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members. The questions are mandated by the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the results are reported in the Council's annual Program Performance Report. In 2015, 98.31 overall satisfaction was achieved. In 2014, 98.80% was achieved. 2015 and 2014 exceeded the 2013 overall performance of 95% and the 2012 overall performance of 90%.

