



## Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council 2018 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 (MDDC) is an independent agency funded by the federal government to work with the Commonwealth 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.

### Systems Change in Action

MDDC Member Holly Simone spearheaded the Council's systems change effort to address the ongoing crisis for more than 900 families in Massachusetts struggling to obtain quality home care nursing hours for their child with critical health care needs. Simone led the Council's work on H1959/SB1273—*An Act for the Continuous Skilled Care of Fragile Children in the Commonwealth*.

Council staff coordinated meetings with bill sponsors Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative Denise Garlick, and also ranking members of the Senate and House Ways and Means committees to brief legislators on the Council's analysis of the legislation.

Simone, the mother of a medically fragile child, provided testimony on behalf of the Council to the Joint Committee on Public Health, where 21 legislators and over 50 members of the public were informed on the impact the bill would have on medically fragile children.



Follow up meetings were held with Committee Chair Senator Jason Lewis and Representative Garlick (pictured with Simone).

SB1273 was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Health Care and Financing on May 21, 2018. The bill moved to Senate Ways and Means Committee where it was also reported out favorably. The bill has since been through final revisions and is now ready to be engrossed, which means it requires a final vote by the full House of Representatives.

The Council understands that the greatest impact on public policy occurs through self-advocacy, and works to bring legislators and constituents together to achieve the common goal of full inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

### 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](http://www.mass.gov/mddc). We encourage you to give us feedback. Please send all questions and comments to [craig.hall@state.ma.us](mailto: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 **157,000** citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have a developmental disability.

### 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 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.

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# State Plan Implementation Progress Report: Year 2

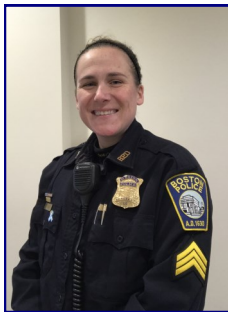
Goal	By the Numbers (Our Measures)
<b>1. Advocacy and Leadership</b>	<b>626</b> The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported self-advocacy and leadership training. <b>90.4</b> The percentage of people with developmental disabilities who reported they now participate in advocacy activities.
<b>2. Supporting Families</b>	<b>311</b> The number of family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of family support options. <b>73.9</b> The percentage of family members who reported an increase in family support advocacy activities.
<b>3. Inclusive Communities</b>	<b>111</b> The number of family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to pursue affordable, integrated housing. <b>54</b> The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported training and activities to acquire the skills needed to obtain competitive and integrated employment.
<b>4. Exercising Rights</b>	<b>204</b> The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported initiatives on voting, abuse prevention and decision making rights. <b>95.0</b> The percentage of people with developmental disabilities who reported an increase in rights and safety advocacy activities.

*Note: This chart was derived from the preliminary data collected for the 2018 Program Performance Report. The full report will be published in the spring of 2019 and located at [www.ddsuite.org/search/](http://www.ddsuite.org/search/). The five year State Plan is located at [www.mass.gov/mddc](http://www.mass.gov/mddc).*

## RISE Class: Community Connections

Ten McKinley Preparatory High School students graduated from Realizing Independence and Self-Empowerment (RISE,) a pilot training program developed by the Council in 2018. RISE is an 8 week training program developed to meet the needs of transitioned aged adolescents with social, emotional, mental health challenges as they enter adulthood. RISE is taught in the classroom environment where the students learn about effective communication, goal setting, self-advocacy, and employment strategies through role plays, class discussion, and guest speakers.

A unique aspect of the training is the participation of Sergeant Shana Cottone of the Boston Police Department. Cottone (pictured) engaged the students in a lively conversation about effective communication with peers, adults, and law enforcement. This topic was a key piece to the successful growth and development of the students in the class.



RISE Trainer Kim Menzel stated that Cottone was exceptional connecting with the students. She was respectful, personable and approachable, and provided them invaluable information about staying safe, making good choices, and how to overcome adversity.

A McKinley teacher providing classroom support expressed it best. "Thank you for letting me participate in this wonderful class. The students were a pleasure and the speaker Sergeant Cottone was so personable and engaging with the students. It was the best part of my day."

## Convening Stakeholders for Policy Solutions

The Council has been providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and family members to connect with their legislators for more than 40 years. Since 2008 the Council has convened a biannual legislative bill sharing session for people with developmental disabilities, family members, legislative sponsors and disability advocates. This event provides the opportunity for people to present disability related bills filed in the new legislative session to the Council's Policy Committee and a group of potential supporters and the public. The event serves as a stimulus for discussing critical disability policy issues, networking and developing partnerships, and provides the Council valuable information for establishing its policy priorities for the next two-year legislative cycle. The 2017 session is pictured below.



Please visit our website, [www.mass.gov/mddc](http://www.mass.gov/mddc), for more information!



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# Revenue and Expenses

## Revenue

Source of Revenue	2018 Revenue (in \$)
Federal Funding	1,277,877.94
Commonwealth Non-Financial Match	290,703.37
Sub-Grantee Match	108,211.36
Developmental Disabilities Suite	146,862.05
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,823,654.72</b>

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.

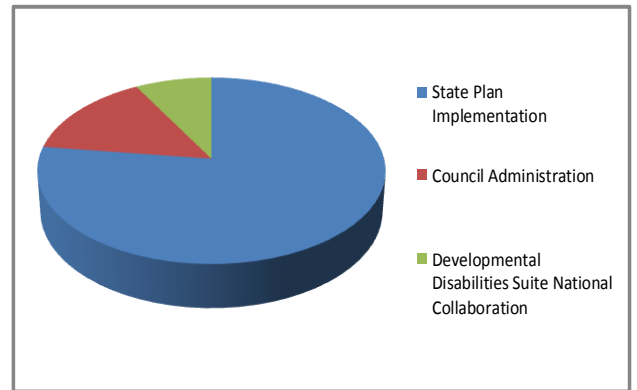
**Note:** The Council is funded through a federal formula grant and is authorized under Subtitle B of Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000, and through Governor's Executive Order #512.

### Independent Audit

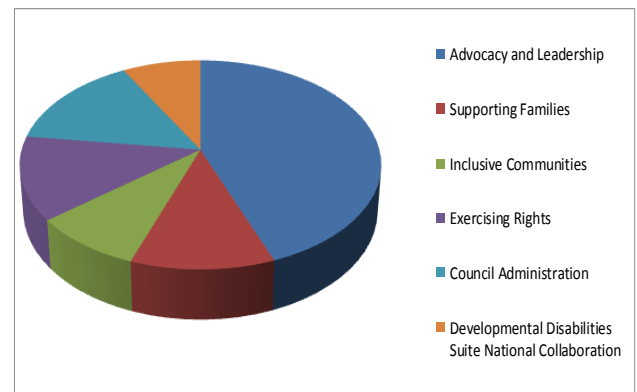
The Council participated in the independent audit, receiving a clean opinion. Complete financial information is available at [www.mass.gov/osc](http://www.mass.gov/osc).

## Expenses

By Functional Area	2018 Expense (in \$)
State Plan Implementation	1,406,156.36
Council Administration	270,636.31
Developmental Disabilities Suite	146,862.05
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,823,654.72</b>



By State Plan Area	2018 Expense (in \$)
Advocacy and Leadership	805,912.50
Supporting Families	205,696.54
Inclusive Communities	159,134.99
Exercising Rights	235,412.33
Council Administration	270,636.31
Developmental Disabilities Suite	146,862.05
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,823,654.72</b>



### A Model of Transparency



The Council's 2017 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.

### 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 **state plan areas** identify the program activities we undertake to successfully meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives.





# Looking Forward

## Three Year Outlook

The Council established the **Guardianship Working Group** to review and make recommendations to the Council regarding current guardianship practices in the Commonwealth for people with developmental disabilities. The goal is to conduct research and identify training gaps and potential systemic improvements to the guardianship system. As with many states, obtaining full guardianship of a person with developmental disability at age 18 is the standard practice. There is a significant lack of knowledge about alternatives to obtaining full guardianship, both with families and within the legal system.

A resource guide for 'when things go wrong' with guardianship has been developed and will be released in 2019. The **Guardianship Working Group** has also recommended that the Council play an active role in encouraging legislative efforts to recognize supported decision making as an alternative to full guardianship.

In 2019, the **Guardianship Working Group** will finalize fact sheets and develop training opportunities for individuals and families about alternatives to full guardianship, and will begin working with the probate court system to educate the courts and legal professionals about disconnects and gaps in the guardianship process, and mechanisms for improvement.

## Council "Leader" in National Employment Efforts

In 2018 the Council actively participated on the **Stay at Work/Return to Work Leadership Team**, a continuing effort of the Council of State Governments, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's State Exchange on Employment and Disability, or SEED.

The team developed a toolkit, a resource designed to help state officials increase the employment retention and labor force participation of individuals who acquire and/or are at risk of developing work disabilities, whether on-the-job or off-the-job.

This work builds off of the efforts of the **National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities** report "**Work Matters: A Framework for States on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities**" on which Council staff was actively engaged.

The reports are available at [www.csg.org/seed\\_report.pdf](http://www.csg.org/seed_report.pdf).

## Employment Training Pilot Collaboration

The Council's Training Team completed the development of a new 8 week **Employment Training Series** for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The focus of the training is skill development to assist the students in pursuit of their employment goals. Classes were piloted to a group of self-advocates, then evaluated and adjusted based on their input. Class topics include resume writing, interviewing techniques, and networking for job opportunities. The **Employment Training Series** will be launched in 2019 at Fitchburg State University, and classes will be taught in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, the statewide self-advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Legislative Bill Sharing Event

On **February 6, 2019**, 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Council office, 100 Hancock Street, 1st Floor Conference Room, Quincy, Mass., will host the bi-annual bill sharing event, inviting advocacy organizations, legislators and the public to present proposed legislation affecting people with developmental disabilities.

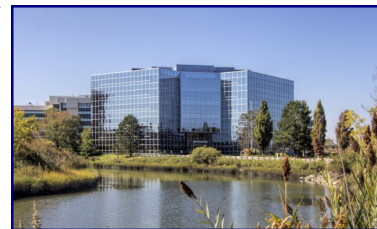
### Annual Legislative Reception

On **March 6, 2019**, 11:00am-12:00pm at the Massachusetts State House, the Council and ARC Mass will partner to present annual legislator of the year awards to members of the Massachusetts House and Senate. The governor will also issue a proclamation recognizing March as Development and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month.

For more information on these and other Council events visit [www.mass.gov/mddc](http://www.mass.gov/mddc).

## We're Moving in 2019!

The Council's new office will be located at 108 Myrtle Street in North Quincy, Mass. The new location is close to public transportation and has open parking. The planned move date is April 2019. The new office lease will save the Council approximately \$108,000 in occupancy costs over the next ten years, and will provide meeting and conference space that will further reduce expenses.



## Maintaining High Customer Satisfaction

The Council conducts customer satisfaction surveys for projects and activities implemented or funded by the Council. Survey results help determine the impact of our efforts on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. 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. Based on 479 surveys, overall satisfaction was 96.7% in 2018.

