



Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC)

Who we are

The MDDC is an independent agency, funded by the federal government, dedicated to empowering people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families to enjoy full productive lives by promoting self-sufficiency, community inclusion, and opportunity.

Our belief

Disability is a natural part of the human experience, and people with IDD have the right to make their own choices, live independently, and fully participate in and contribute to their communities

Our goals

The Council develops and adopts a 5-year State Plan, setting goals and objectives for the Council to strive to meet. 2022-2026 State Plan goals are:

1. Advocacy and Leadership
2. Systems Change
3. Information, Education and Awareness

Council Membership

The Council includes citizen members, appointed by the Governor, as well as advocates and state agency representatives. By law, **at least 60% of the Council** must be people with IDD, or family members. This diversity enables Councils to better analyze and improve systems and services within a state and ensure that the voices of PWDD and their families are heard. For those interested in joining the Council, applications are always accepted and will be considered when there is a vacancy on the Council.

Contact: Adelia DelTrecco, Member Services Coordinator
Adelia.DelTrecco@mass.gov - (617) 770-7676 ext. 101

Our work:



Disability Policy

The Council's Disability Policy team provides technical assistance on state and federal policies to help improve the lives of people with DD and their families. Each legislative session, the policy team tracks bills that affect the DD community in MA. We provide expert testimony, summarize research, and serve as an objective resource to policymakers and community members alike. We also support Council and community members in their advocacy. We foster opportunities for people to share their stories with lawmakers both on Beacon Hill here in Massachusetts and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Contact: Jennifer Bertrand, Deputy Director

Jennifer.Bertrand@mass.gov

(617) 770-7676 ext. 103



Self-Advocacy & Training

The Self-Advocacy and Training team works with statewide Independent Living Centers, employment service providers, high school and post-secondary programs to provide peer training to self-advocates on a range of topics. Currently the Self-Advocacy and training team offers these series – **Self-Esteem: The Positive ME!, Employment, Supported Decision-Making, Legislative Advocacy, and Sexuality & Disability: Speak Without Shame.**

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Follow Us:

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Find Us Online: mass.gov/mddc

Key Partnerships & Coalition Membership

The MDDC works in partnership with many organizations and serves on multiple coalitions, including (but not limited to):

- The Massachusetts DD Network (Disability Law Center, E.K. Shriver Center, and Institute for Community Inclusion)
- Supporting the annual Paul W. Spooner Generational Leadership Summit.
- Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS).
- Massachusetts Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.
- Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Disability Policy (MA21).
- REV Up! Massachusetts (Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power!)
- Guardianship and Alternatives Innovation Network (GAIN).
- Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Workforce Council.
- Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council (MASILC).
- Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) Working Group.