



## Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC)

### FACT SHEET

- 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 (DD) and their families.
- The MDDC's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities have opportunities to lead successful lives in their communities by supporting inclusive education, greater employment opportunities, and the right to make choices about where, with whom, and how they live.
- The MDDC works to improve the system of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by bringing together lawmakers with advocates to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included in public policy decisions.
- The MDDC supports partnerships with disability advocacy groups to address policy and social issues impacting people with developmental disabilities.
- The MDDC works with legislators and policymakers to serve as an impartial educational resource to inform public policy at both state and federal levels to better meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- The MDDC supports initiatives to help build the self-confidence, leadership and interpersonal skills that are needed for people with developmental disabilities to play active roles in the community.
- The MDDC provides peer-led training to people with developmental disabilities on self-advocacy, leadership, legislative advocacy, employment and more.
- The MDDC supports statewide and regional self-advocacy groups which offer opportunities to connect people with disabilities, engage in advocacy and expand their social networks.
- The MDDC co-sponsors the Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellowship for individuals with developmental disabilities to learn about advocacy, public policy and leadership development. The Allen C. Crocker Family Fellowship offers a similar experience for family members. The Fellowships are a partnership of Mass. DD Network partners MDDC, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, E.K. Shriver Center at UMass Chan Medical School and the Disability Law Center.