



# Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC)

## FY2022 Impact Report

### Our Mission

At the MDDC, our mission is to provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities (PWDD) and families to enhance independence, productivity and inclusion.

### Goal Oriented Approach

#### Goal 1: Advocacy and Leadership

The Council advanced advocacy and leadership through partnerships with organizations like Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), offering training tailored to PWDD. Collaborations with Partners for Youth with Disabilities and others supported leadership training for older youth, including legal clinics on supported decision-making. The Council worked with family-led diversity advocacy groups and began uniting cultural brokers to address shared challenges in underserved communities. It also co-leads a Community of Practice with the Department of Developmental Services to support families.

#### Goal 2: Systems Change

The Council focused on policymaker education and coalition work. Key successes included passage of a landmark higher education law for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and securing a \$10 million permanent increase in rates for in-home skilled nursing. Advocacy efforts with MassHealth led to coverage for specialized nutritional formula. The Council took leadership roles in groups focused on self-determination, skilled nursing, and supported decision-making (SDM), and participated in efforts related to disability rights, accessibility, employment, and family support. Its recommendation led to a plain-language proclamation of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, with multilingual, accessible presentation.

#### Goal 3: Information, Education, and Awareness

The Council and its partners held trainings community living, choice-making, and rights, covering topics such as voting, employment, relationships, and transition. Supported DM remained a top priority and area of leadership. Pandemic-related challenges continued, including delayed public access to the State House, barriers to in-person events, and workforce shortages. However, the Council expanded its online reach and deepened relationships with stakeholders, strengthening its foundation for future collaboration.

## FY2022 by Numbers

**853** PWDD educated about self-direction<sup>†</sup> and leadership.

**576** family members educated about advocacy and leadership.

**400** other community members participated in activities to increase their knowledge.

**31** PWDD increased advocacy.\*

**24** family members increased advocacy.\*

Trained **199** PWDD across **3** series: Employment, and new for FY2022, Legislative Advocacy and Self-Esteem: The Positive ME!

Supported **45** Council Members and community members to present testimony on policies that would impact PWDD.

**500** in-person attendees at the 44th Annual Legislative Reception.

Partnered with **21** stakeholder groups promoting policies that make it easier for PWDD to live in the community.

**\$73,000** awarded to community organizations, including Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), our statewide self-advocacy network.

<sup>†</sup> Self-Direction: the ability of an individual to make their own decisions and organize their own life, activities, or work.

\*Of those who responded to follow-up messaging.

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