



# Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC)

## FY2023 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 MDDC supported self-advocacy, self-determination, and leadership through trainings with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS). It partnered with disability organizations to train older youth in leadership and supported decision-making. It collaborated with family-led advocacy groups and cultural brokers from underserved communities. The MDDC continued supporting the Gopen and Crocker Fellowships. It supported self-advocates as Charting the LifeCourse Ambassadors and provided technical assistance to improve model accessibility.

#### Goal 2: Systems Change

The Council educated policymakers and worked with coalitions to advance disability-related policies. A decade-long legislative effort led to the nation's first law expanding higher education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Advocacy secured a \$10 million increase in in-home skilled nursing rates and policy changes allowing MassHealth coverage for specialized formula. The Council led or joined efforts on self-determination, skilled nursing, supported decision-making, disability rights, employment, and accessibility. Its recommendation led to a plain-language proclamation of DD Awareness Month with multilingual access.

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

Staff and partners educated hundreds on community living, decision-making, voting, employment, relationships, and transition. Communications efforts expanded to include underserved communities. The MDDC remained a leader in promoting supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship. Ongoing public health risks and workforce shortages limited in-person participation. However, there was increased reach in virtual training across Massachusetts.

## FY2023 by Numbers

**1,058** PWDD educated about self-direction<sup>†</sup> and leadership.

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

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

**257** PWDD increased advocacy.\*

**31** family members increased advocacy.\*

Trained **254** PWDD across **3** series: Employment, Legislative Advocacy, and Self Esteem: The Positive ME!

**20** new emerging leaders trained at the 2023 Paul W. Spooner Generational Leadership Summit.

Supported **11** Council Members and community members to present testimony on policies that would impact PWDD.

**400** attendees at the 45th Annual Legislative Reception.

Partnered with **16** stakeholder groups promoting policies that make it easier for PWDD to live in the community.

**\$85,000** 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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