

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

2019 State Plan Work Plan

Goal 1: Advocacy and Leadership

People with developmental disabilities and family members will engage in self-advocacy, systems advocacy and leadership.

Objective 1.1

A minimum of 100 youth with developmental disabilities will develop effective skills and engage in self-advocacy by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Conduct youth skills trainings through the self-advocacy leadership series.
2. Support the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).
3. Provide grant funding to MASS to support the Council's skills training initiatives and to assist in providing opportunities for self-advocacy.
4. Implement networking and social media strategies to connect youth with developmental disabilities to advocacy opportunities.

Expected Outputs:

4 Youth SALS Series will be held
32 students will participate in SALS
25 Youth participate in the Youth Leadership Forum
4 opportunities for self-advocacy are provided
30 students/youth participate in disability advocacy
10 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

- A. Increased knowledge about self-advocacy, improved advocacy skills.
- B. Increased # of individuals engaging in self-advocacy.

Objective 1.2

A minimum of 200 adults with developmental disabilities will improve interactive skills and engage in self-advocacy by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities

1. Conduct adult skills trainings through the self-advocacy leadership series and the Independence College initiative.
2. Support MASS Advocates Standing Strong to conduct skills training.
3. Provide opportunities for disability advocacy through the Legislative Reception and other advocacy events.
4. Utilize Council Empowerment (CEF) Funds to support individuals to gain knowledge about community and system support resources.
5. Implement networking and social media strategies to connect adults with developmental disabilities to advocacy opportunities.

Expected Outputs:

2 adult SALS Classes held
20 Students participate in SALS
16 Independence College classes to be held (2 of each)
15 Students participate in Independence College
50 self-advocates trained through MASS support.
4 opportunities for disability advocacy provided
10 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Increased knowledge about self-advocacy, improved advocacy skills.
Increased knowledge about self-direction and systems advocacy.
Increased # of individuals interacting with legislators, policy makers, and networking with others.
Increased # of individuals engaging in disability advocacy.

Objective 1.3

A minimum of 100 students with developmental disabilities and family members from racially diverse communities will develop advocacy skills and engage in self-advocacy by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Partner with Boston Public Schools to conduct youth skills training programs.
2. Conduct special education trainings for families and transition aged youth from racially diverse communities.
3. Implement networking and social media strategies to engage more racially diverse students with developmental disabilities and families.

Expected Outputs:

4 Youth SALS Classes held
40 racially diverse students participate in SALS
Special education training projects implemented by grantees
40 racially diverse students and 40 family members trained
10 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Increased knowledge about self-advocacy, and improved advocacy skills.
Increased # of racially diverse individuals with developmental disabilities engaging in self-advocacy
Increased # racially diverse family members engage in advocacy for their child's special education services

Objective 1.4

A minimum of 50 people with developmental disabilities and family members will develop and demonstrate leadership skills by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Collaborate with DD Network partners to support the Gopen and Crocker Fellowships.
2. Solicit people with developmental disabilities to apply for council membership
3. Support Council members to engage in disability and systems advocacy activities.
4. Encourage participation and support people with developmental disabilities and family members to join DD Network advisory boards, community boards, local government disability commissions, and state advisory groups.
5. Support opportunities for leaders with developmental disabilities to provide leadership training to other individuals.
6. Support the participation of self-advocates on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.
7. Implement networking and social media strategies to promote leadership opportunities.

Expected Outputs:

1 Fellowship grant awarded
1 Gopen Fellowship completed
1 Crocker Fellowship completed
8 opportunities for PWDD to provide trainings to other PWDD
10 self-advocates participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions

5 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Increased # of people with improved leadership skills

Increased # of people utilizing leadership skills

Increased # of people participating on cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions

Goal 2: Supporting Families

Families will have access to the supports they need to ensure fulfilling lives for their family members with developmental disabilities in the community.

Objective 2.1

A minimum 100 people with developmental disabilities and family members will attain the support needed to live inclusive and productive lives by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Participate on Supporting Families Coalition initiative to enhance opportunities to increase access to family support options.
2. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness and education activities.
3. Educate policymakers on the benefits of enhancing supports to individuals and families.
4. Educate policymakers on the benefits of providing quality supports to families of medically fragile individuals with developmental disabilities.
5. Utilize networking and social media strategies to increase awareness of family support.

Expected Outputs:

1 grant implemented to conduct Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness

3 Council staff and Council members participating in initiatives

80 families trained

40 families participating in advocacy initiatives

1 policy advocated for that will improve support to medically fragile individuals

200 policy makers educated about benefits of supporting families

2 legislative networking events

12 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Increased knowledge of individuals and families about supports.

Increased advocacy about supports.

Increased knowledge of policymakers about supports.

One policy improved

One policy created

Objective 2.2

A minimum of 200 families will pursue resources available to support them and their family members with developmental disabilities by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Educate underserved racially diverse family members about Autism insurance and MassHealth.
2. Support families to pursue the resources available for them and their family members with developmental disabilities.
3. Participate in statewide interagency committees addressing family engagement and early intervention.
4. Prepare for the 2019 Statewide Transition Conference
5. Utilize Council Empowerment (CEF) Funds to support families to gain knowledge about community and system support resources.
6. Utilize networking and social media strategies to connect families to resources.

Expected Outputs:

- 1 grant implemented to educate underserved racially diverse family members about Autism insurance and MassHealth
- Statewide Transition Conference preparation completed
- 2 interagency committees on family engagement and early intervention.
- 1 grant implemented to support families to pursue community resources available to support them and their family members with developmental disabilities
- 50 families educated about pursuing available community resources
- 50 family members from racially diverse communities educated about Autism and MassHealth
- 12 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

- Family members have increased knowledge about system support networks and availability.
- Family members from underserved communities have increased knowledge about and access to Autism insurance and Medicaid.
- Family members have increased knowledge and access to generic community resources.

Goal 3: Inclusive Communities

People with developmental disabilities will enjoy meaningful and inclusive lives in their communities.

Objective 3.1

A minimum of 50 people with developmental disabilities and their families will have access to appropriate supports to pursue affordable, integrated housing options by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Support initiatives that promote affordable, accessible housing.
2. Educate individuals and families about housing options, support services and systems advocacy around housing.
3. Participate on the Housing Finance Commission
4. Educate policymakers around the importance of people with developmental disabilities having access to services and supports needed to succeed through the lifespan.
5. Utilize networking and social media to share resources about housing issues and options.

Expected Outputs:

- 1 initiative supported
- 12 individuals with developmental disabilities educated about housing options
- 35 individuals and family members educated about housing options
- 25 PWDD and family members engaged in advocacy around housing
- 200 policymakers educated about community living services and supports
- 1 Housing policy improved
- 10 social media posts through Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

- Individuals and family members have increased knowledge of housing options.
- Increased opportunities for individuals and family members to pursue affordable, integrated housing options.
- Policymakers have an increased awareness of best practices in housing.
- Housing policy improved.

Objective 3.2

A minimum of 100 people with developmental disabilities will develop the skills needed to obtain competitive, integrated employment by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Establish an employment skills training through the Independence College initiative.
2. Support initiatives that improve continuing and higher education opportunities or people with developmental disabilities.
3. Support initiatives that increase employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
4. Participate on the MA Partnership for Transition to Employment Steering Committee
5. Educate policymakers about the disconnect that exists between education and employment opportunities for students with developmental disabilities.
6. Utilize networking and social media strategies to conduct continuing and higher education and employment awareness activities.

Expected Outputs:

- 1 employment skills training initiated
- 2 Explore, Prepare, Act classes conducted
- 30 students with developmental disabilities complete employment classes
- 12 statewide employment related committee meetings attended
- 200 policy makers educated about the disconnect that exists between education and employment
- 12 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased number of PWDD develop employment related skills.
- Increased number of PWDD are aware of continuing and higher education opportunities.
- Policymakers have an increased awareness of the disconnect that exists between education and employment.

Goal 4: Exercising Rights

People with developmental disabilities will exercise their rights and be safer in their homes and communities.

Objective 4.1

A minimum of 250 people with developmental disabilities will understand their rights and will be supported to live safely in the community by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities

1. Conduct Awareness and Action trainings around safety and protecting human rights for individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. Develop strategies for training family members, guardians and caretakers of individuals with developmental disabilities on how to assure the safety and well-being of individuals with no/minimal communication skills.
3. Educate policymakers about policy initiatives that allow people with developmental disabilities to live safely and free from abuse in the community.
4. Utilize networking and social media strategies to conduct safety awareness activities and inform the general public.

Expected Outputs:

- 1 grant implemented to conduct awareness and action training for PWDD
- 50 PWDD trained about their safety and human rights
- 200 policymakers educated about rights and safety
- 1 strategy developed to educate family members, guardians, and caretakers on promoting safety and rights
- 12 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased number of PWDD developing awareness and safety skills.
- Increased number of people understand and can promote safety and rights.
- Policymakers have an increased awareness of what people with developmental disabilities need to live safely and free from abuse in the community.

Objective 4.2

A minimum of 500 people with developmental disabilities will exercise the opportunity to vote by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Partner with the Disability Law Center and other advocacy organizations to increase the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who are registered to vote.
2. Partner in the REV Up initiative, maintain the MA REV Up website and database.
3. Develop voting components for the SALS and Independence College curricula.
4. Utilize networking and social media strategies to educate people with developmental disabilities about poll locations, accessibility, transportation and other important voting related information.

Expected Outputs:

- 12 Rev Up initiative partners
- 1 Rev Up voting web page managed
- 6 Rev Up e-blasts sent
- 50 PWDD join the voting initiative through the Rev Up web page.
- 50 PWDD register to vote
- 10 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Improved collaboration to increase voting of people with developmental disabilities.
Increased number of people with developmental disabilities registered to vote.

Objective 4.3

A minimum of 50 family members and people with developmental disabilities will pursue alternatives to full guardianship by September 30, 2021.

Key Activities:

1. Continue supporting a Guardianship working group of advocates, guardians, providers, attorneys and others to develop strategies to address full guardianship issues and supported decision making.
2. Participate on the Supported Decision Making legislative group.
3. Develop guardianship and supported decision making components to the SALS and Independence College curricula.
4. Develop a training for policymakers on guardianship proceedings and alternatives to guardianship
5. Utilize networking and social media strategies to increase knowledge of supported decision making and other alternatives to guardianship.

Expected Outputs:

Convene and facilitate a Guardianship Working Group

6 Guardianship Work Group meetings held

1 informational document on supported decision-making and other alternatives to guardianship drafted

1 informational document outlining resources available to individuals who are unsatisfied with guardianship proceedings disseminated

2 policies/practices created

200 policymakers educated on supported decision-making and guardianship issues

10 social media posts on Twitter and Facebook

Expected Outcomes:

Improved collaboration on guardianship advocacy for PWDD.

Increased knowledge of PWDD and family members about supported decision-making

Increased policymaker awareness of guardianship issues.

Increased knowledge of PWDD and family members about the options available to them in guardianship proceedings