

The Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) has a mission to support independence, advocacy, productivity, and inclusion for Alabamians with developmental disabilities.

About the ACDD

ACDD board members come from across the state and include appointments by the Governor, representatives from disabilities agencies and organizations as well as those who've had experience with developmental disabilities as individuals or as parents.

The Council is responsible for developing and implementing a state plan for improving the quality of the lives of those who have disabilities. The Council also supports the developmental disabilities community through advocacy, education and grant funding.

Learn more about our programs, partnerships and advocacy at ACDD.org.



ALABAMA
— COUNCIL ON —
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities is funded through a grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

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Developmental Disabilities, Defined

Developmental disabilities are severe, life-long disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairments, which are manifested before age 22. Developmental disabilities result in substantial limitations in three or more areas of major life activities: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, capacity for independent living, mobility, economic self-sufficiency, and self-direction.

Persons with developmental disabilities require individually planned and coordinated services and supports (e.g., education, civil and human rights protection, health care) for life or for an extended period of time in order to live in the community.

ACDD Areas of Emphasis

Through our advocacy and other initiatives, the ACDD emphasizes the following areas:

- Child Care-Related Activities
- Community Supports
- Early Intervention Activities
- Employment-Related Activities
- Health-Related Activities
- Housing-Related Activities
- Quality Assurance Activities
- Recreation-Related Activities
- Transportation-Related Activities

In accordance with the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, ACDD and all of its activities must comply with the succeeding principles:

People with developmental disabilities, including individuals with the most severe disabilities, are capable of achieving independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion within the community.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported and encouraged. All assistance should be provided in an individualized manner.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decision makers regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive, and should play decision-making roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of such individuals and their families.

Services, supports, and other assistance are provided in a manner that demonstrates respect for individual dignity, personal preference, and cultural differences.

Specific efforts must be made to ensure that individuals with disabilities from under-represented groups enjoy effective and meaningful opportunities for full participation in the developmental disabilities service system.

Recruitment efforts of professionals to work in the field of developmental disabilities must focus on bringing additional numbers of under-represented groups into the field in order to provide the appropriate skills, knowledge, role models, and sufficient human resources to address the growing needs of an increasingly diverse population.

With education and support, communities can be responsive to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and are enriched by the full and active participation and contributions of the individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Individuals with developmental disabilities must have access to opportunities and the necessary supports to be included in community life, have interdependent relationships, live in homes and communities, and make contributions to their families, community, state, and nation.

Efforts undertaken to maintain or expand community-based living options for individuals with developmental disabilities should be monitored in order to determine and report to appropriate individuals and entities, the extent of access by individuals with developmental disabilities to those options and the extent of compliance by entities providing those options with quality assurance standards.

Families of children with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of safe and appropriate child care and before-school and after-school programs, in the most integrated settings, in order to enrich the participation of the children in community life.

Individuals with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of public transportation, in order to be independent and directly contribute to and participate in all facets of community life.

Individuals with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of recreational, leisure, and social opportunities in the most integrated settings, in order to enrich their participation in community life.