

leadership. Through council efforts, IMPACT SC has continued. The organization was designed to help self advocates attend training and conferences to increase their skills in order to advocate for themselves and others with disabilities. The council continues to fund Partners In Policymaking, Parents Reaching Out to Parents of SC, Inc., and several other projects.

### **Community Supports - Individuals will have access to services they need to exercise choice.**

During the last grant cycle, 8,175 individuals benefitted from formal/informal community supports as a result of council efforts. 1,207 people facilitated community supports and 5,282 people trained in this area. 29 buildings became accessible to people with disabilities. Some projects in this area include Hope Unleashed through Project HOPE Foundation. Through this project, dogs are used to help children and young adults with autism to develop appropriate communication, social, and behavioral skills, leading to more independent and productive lives.

The council also provides funding to Family Connection of S.C. for Family Night Out. Through this project, five information, recreation, and respite events will be held for families of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are on waiting lists for services in the state.

The S.C. Autism Society was also awarded funding in this area to produce printed guides to educate individuals and family members with disabilities about the process of guardianship and other alternatives.

## **What is a Developmental Disability?**

- ◆ A developmental disability is a severe chronic disability of which...
- ◆ is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- ◆ is apparent before the person reaches age 22;
- ◆ results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major activities:

self-care  
learning  
communication  
economic self-sufficiency  
self-direction  
independent living  
mobility

- ◆ requires the need for lifelong individually planned coordinated services.
- ◆ An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described above, if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

**If you need assistance, please  
write or call:  
South Carolina  
Developmental Disabilities Council  
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 453  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803) 734-0465  
visit our web site at  
[www. scddc.state.sc.us](http://www.scddc.state.sc.us)**



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
Developmental Disabilities Council**

## **People With Disabilities Have Abilities!!!**

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# South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

## What is the Developmental Disabilities Council?

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by executive order and was reauthorized in 2010. The council is comprised of members appointed by the Governor. The membership includes individuals with developmental disabilities or their relatives, advocates, service providers, and state and local agencies.

The council is federally funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act. The council engages in activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered and directed, comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

## Our Mission

The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.

## Priority Areas

The council has decided on four priority areas which include employment, health, quality assurance, and community supports. Each project funded by council initiatives relates to one of these priority areas. Below are federal definitions for each area, along with some examples of projects the council is currently funding or working on.

### DD Council Priority Areas

#### **Employment - People with disabilities who want to work, work in places of their own choosing.**

As a result of council outreach, training, and community education efforts, the council aided 34 adults with developmental disabilities secure employment of their own choosing. Through council efforts, 33 employers provided vocational supports to students on the job. During this grant cycle, 101 people facilitated employment and 337 individuals were trained in employment. The SCDDC continues to fund a program in Fort Mill School District 4 called It's My Life that assists high school students transition from school to work. In addition, the Laurens DSN Board has implemented a career training program and employment for students attending Laurens High School.

#### **Health - Improve the wellness of people with developmental disabilities in SC and prevent the occurrence of secondary debilitating conditions.**

Through council efforts, 420 people were trained in health services. 73 individuals have received health services through council efforts. 3,354 people have improved health services. 1,647 people have been involved in systems advocacy on health care through council efforts. Throughout the state, there have been many new approaches to health services through council funding. Through the current grant cycle, the council continues to fund Heads Up! SC, which educates high school and middle school athletic professionals, nurses and coaches about brain concussion identification and management. The council has also funded a program through the Lander University Equestrian Center to provide therapeutic horseback riding. Funding in this area has also been awarded to Pattison's Academy; USC School of Medicine; York County Adult Day Services; and to PRO-Parents, to name a few.

#### **Quality Assurance - People with developmental disabilities and their families are strong advocates for themselves, their families, and all individuals with disabilities.**

In this area, 676 people were trained in Quality Assurance. 724 people were trained in