

## 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.*

## VALUES STATEMENT

**The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council believes:**

- **Families are the foundation of our society.**
- **An individual with developmental disabilities may provide additional challenges in the family.**
- **A coordinated system of support is critical to the individual, family members and community to foster independence, productivity and inclusion into the community setting.**
- **Individuals and family members should be actively involved in the decision making process for supports and services.**

## What Is A Developmental Disability?

- A developmental disability is a severe chronic disability 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.

## PRIORITY AREAS

The Developmental Disabilities Council recognizes and supports programs which are beneficial to persons with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities Council's State Plan outlines four priority areas: Community Supports, Employment, and Self-Advocacy. The grants funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council fall within one of these areas and are focused on improvement of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to their own choice of formal and informal community-based services, supports, resources and activities throughout their lifetime.

## EMPLOYMENT

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to competitive, community-based career opportunities throughout their lifetime.

## SELF-ADVOCACY

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to effect statewide leadership training opportunities that contribute to active participation in cross disability leadership coalitions and systems change efforts.



## Collaboration

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council has established partnerships and continues to focus on building collaborations with agencies, non-profit, non-governmental organizations and businesses that support the efforts of the Council.

## Legislation

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council with its partners has been instrumental in effecting legislation benefitting persons with disabilities and their families. Voting laws, school laws, bullying laws and removal of derogatory terms from legislation are direct results of these efforts.

## Committee Involvement

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is involved with a number of committees and agencies that support persons with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities and their families; ensuring persons with disabilities are equally represented.



## **PURPOSE**

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by Executive Order of the Governor and was reauthorized in 2010 and 2016. Not less than 60% of the total Council membership is consumers and family members. Additional members come from state agencies, DD Act partners and non-governmental organizations.

The Council is federally funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act. Activities focus on consumer-family centered systems. This comprehensive system includes individualized support, community services and other forms of assistance which promotes self-determination. The implementation of these services and initiatives lead to improved quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families; helping them to feel and become an integral part of their surrounding community.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA Developmental Disabilities Council**

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