



## What We Do

### Collaboration

The DD Council has established partnerships and continues to focus on building and fostering collaborations with agencies, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, and businesses that support the Council's efforts.

### Legislation

The Council, in collaboration with its partners, has been instrumental in advocating for legislation that benefits persons with disabilities and their families. These efforts have influenced laws on voting, education, bullying, and removing derogatory terms from legislation.

### Committee Involvement

The Council is involved in several committees and agencies supporting people with IDD and their families, ensuring that people 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 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. Its activities focus on consumer-family-centered systems. This comprehensive system includes individualized support, community services, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination. Implementing these services and initiatives improves the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families, helping them feel and become an integral part of their surrounding community.



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Developmental Disabilities Council



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# South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council



## 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.





## 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 integration 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 significant activities:

Independent Living
Communication
Self-Care
Learning
Economic Self-Sufficiency
Self-direction
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 that are beneficial to persons with IDD. The Council's State Plan outlines three 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 the improvement of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

### Community Supports

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

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### Employment

People with IDD have access to competitive, community-based career opportunities throughout their lifetime.

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### Self-Advocacy

People with IDD 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.