



Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council 2013 Annual Report to the Citizens of Massachusetts

Providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.

Our Purpose

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent agency funded by the federal government to work with the state of Massachusetts to better support people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Beliefs

Individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live full, productive and independent lives in the community. Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

What We Do

We work to improve the system of supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by bringing advocates together with lawmakers to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included in public policy decisions. We foster partnerships with disability advocacy groups to address policy and social issues impacting people with developmental disabilities. We support initiatives to help build the self-confidence, leadership and interpersonal skills that are needed for people with developmental disabilities to play active roles in the community. We work with legislators and policymakers to serve as an impartial educational resource to inform public policy at both state and federal levels to better meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Report to the Citizens

We are pleased to present our seventh annual *Report to the Citizens of the Commonwealth*. This report is also available on the Council website www.mass.gov/mddc.

100 Hancock Street | Phone: 617.770.7676
Suite 201 | Fax: 617.770.1987
Quincy, MA 02171-1745



Council staff and past Gopen Fellowship recipients at the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass.

What is a Developmental Disability?

As defined in Public Law 106-402, a developmental disability is a severe, chronic, often life-long disability that causes substantial limitations in several major life activities such as: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, the capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. It is attributable to a mental, emotional, sensory, and/or physical impairment that is apparent before the age of 22 and is likely to continue indefinitely.

Chances are you know someone with a developmental disability

Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that over 152,000 citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have a developmental disability.

Role of the Council and Membership

The Council works to effect changes in public policy so that people with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered and supported to become more independent and economically productive. The Council implements a five-year state plan to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities.

Council citizen members are appointed by the governor for up to three-year terms and can serve up to two full terms. Members include individuals with developmental disabilities, parents and other family members, as well as local and nongovernmental members. The Council also includes representatives of state agencies that administer funds under federal laws related to individuals with disabilities. For more information on membership and to read the Council's Five-Year State Plan, visit www.mass.gov/mddc.

DD Suite: New Public Search

The DD Suite (Developmental Disabilities Suite) is the Council's on-line performance management system. In fiscal year 2013, a new search function was built, allowing the public easy online access to State Plans and Annual Program Performance Reports. In 2014, a new system upgrade will provide improved user interface with current technology and improve transparency using enhanced search functions.



Accomplishments and Achievements

Public Policy: Education and Advocacy

S. 218, An Act to Maintain Short Term Objectives for Students with Disabilities was signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick in 2013. This important legislation for people with developmental disabilities was a priority achievement for the Council, requiring school districts to continue including short-term objectives and benchmarks in the Individualized Education Programs (IEP) of all students with disabilities. The inclusion of measurable short-term objectives in IEPs is important to effectively measure the impact of special education services, providing essential information for educators to adjust services and strategies in a timely fashion. For current information on the Council's policy priorities, please visit the 'Disability Policy' section at www.mass.gov/mddc.

Autism Commission: Implementing Recommendations

In March 2013, the Autism Commission submitted its final report to Governor Deval Patrick. The Council provided staff support to the commission and continues to provide support for policy work toward increasing access to state sponsored services, expanding insurance coverage for autism therapies, improving the medical care that individuals with autism receive, promoting the creation of housing for people with autism, and improving the education students with autism are offered in Massachusetts' public schools.

The report and recommendations can be downloaded at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/>



INDEPENDENCE COLLEGE
Opportunity Awaits!

Independence College is a Council initiative that began in fiscal year 2013 in collaboration with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, the state-wide self-advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Independence College offers an educational track for people with developmental disabilities that will direct them toward the opportunities they want, and assist them in gaining skills and knowledge toward living better, more fulfilling and more inclusive lives.

Independence College operates like an educational institution, in that students can choose from a curriculum, enrolling in the classes that best meet their needs and goals. Through a collection of credits for each course, training and practicum experience completed, students complete the Independence College requirements to gain a certificate of achievement.

A steering committee of self-advocates serves as advisors for Independence College, assisting in program design and providing recommendations about curriculum improvements.

The goal for the initiative graduate 50 students over the next three years.

Maintaining Customer Satisfaction

The Council conducts ongoing customer satisfaction surveys to ensure high quality service is being provided for citizens. Overall customer satisfaction exceeded 95% in 2013 toward the annual goal of 100%.

Measures of Success

Our success is determined by our ability to the performance objectives established in our five year State Plan. Each year we submit a performance report to the federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities showing outcomes by State Plan Objective. Our 2013 Program Performance Report can be viewed by visiting <http://www.ddsuite.org/search/>.

Highlights of our 2013 accomplishments that achieved or exceeded our goals include:

- \$4,639,418 were leveraged for community initiatives - exceeding our goal of \$500,000.
- 3,317 people were trained in areas related to the Council's objectives - exceeding our goal of 3000.
- 1,162 individuals and family members were trained in systems advocacy - meeting our goal of 1000.
- 426 people with developmental disabilities were trained in leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination— falling short of our goal of 500.
- 1,971 individuals and family members were active in advocacy work, exceeding our goal of 1500.
- 127 people with developmental disabilities were trained on job preparedness, and 11 people secured jobs.
- 162,292 members of the general public were reached by council education, awareness and media initiatives.



Performance, Accountability, and Transparency

Revenue

Source of Revenue	2013 Revenue (in \$)
Federal Funding	1,559,491.42
Commonwealth Non- Financial Match	352,221.84
Sub-Grant Match	717,783.35
Developmental Disabilities Suite	121,583.76
Total Revenue	2,751,080.37

The **financial mission** of the Council is to maximize the use of our federal awards, while leveraging additional resources from the Commonwealth, our grantees and other collaborations and partnerships, to meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives. The matching goal was met in years one and two (2012 and 2013.)

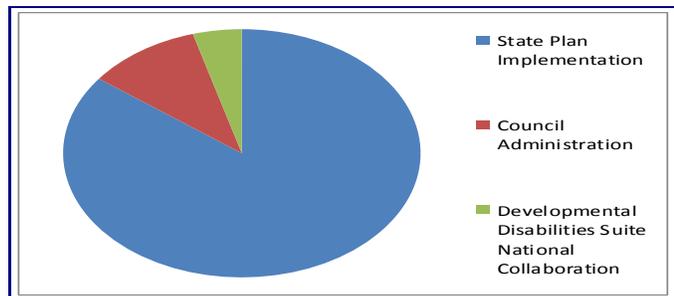
Note: The Council is funded through a federal formula grant and is authorized under Subtitle B of Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000, and through state Executive Order #512.

Independent Audit

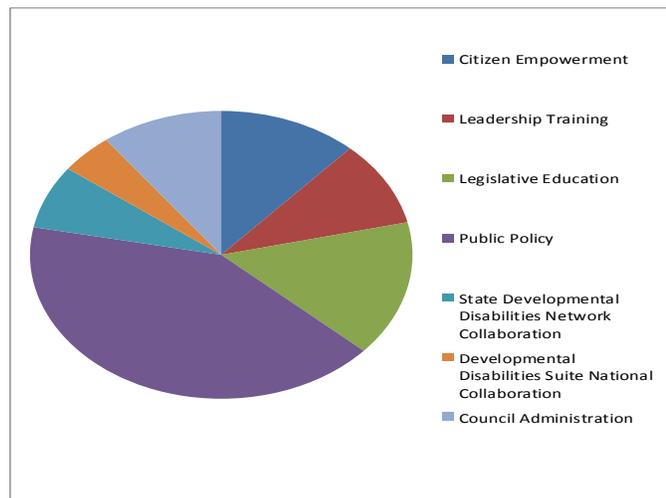
The Council participated in the independent audit, receiving a clean opinion. Complete financial information is available at www.mass.gov/osc.

Expenses

By Functional Area*	2013 Expense (in \$)
State Plan Implementation	2,345,375.89
Council Administration	284,120.72
Developmental Disabilities Suite	121,583.76
Total Expenses	2,751,080.37



By Major Activity Area	2013 Expense (in \$)
Citizen Empowerment **	320,240.28
Leadership Training**	267,445.35
Legislative Education**	411,649.48
Public Policy**	1,146,820.90
State Developmental Disabilities Network Collaboration**	199,219.88
Council Administration	284,120.72
Developmental Disabilities Suite	121,583.76
Total Expenses	2,751,080.37



What We Do: Our Primary Program Areas

*The Council has two primary program areas. The **functional area** divides the organization by our program and administrative activities.

The **major activity areas identify the program activities we undertake to successfully meet our five-year State Plan goals and objectives.

A Model of Transparency

The Council's 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 reports received the Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants for advancing government accountability. The logo recognizes the importance of a citizen focused initiative for financial reporting.



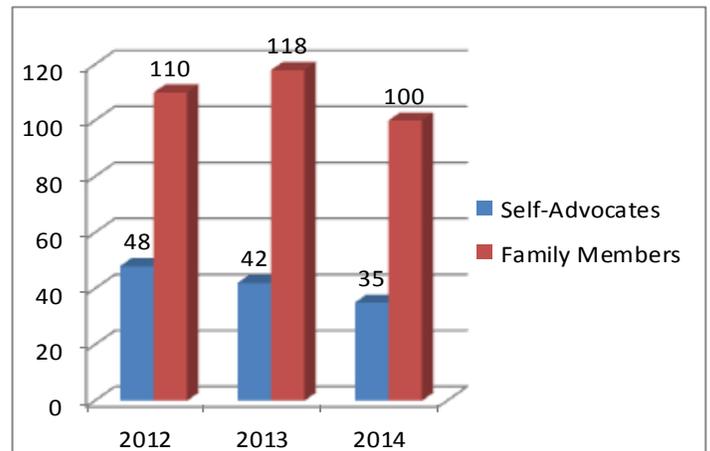
2012-2016 State Plan: Ahead

Minimizing the Impact of Funding Reductions

For over half a century, as mandated by the Developmental Disabilities Act, state Councils throughout the country have worked with policy-makers and community partners to achieve changes that promote the self-determination, independence, economic self-sufficiency, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. In Massachusetts, the Developmental Disabilities Council makes effective use of small annual allocations to develop new and creative ways to help people with DD and their families navigate complex service systems and to improve education, transition, employment, housing, health and other policies and programs. However, we are anticipating a continuing downward trend of federal funding, which has been reduced by more than 6% over the last four years. This places added pressure to maintain a level of activity and support expected by individuals and families, as well as to financially support new and innovative initiatives. The challenge will be to accurately determine the most pressing priorities and to strike the right balance in supporting our advocacy partners.

Budget Reductions Force New Approach for Popular Program

The impact of annual allotment reductions is reflected in the Council's Empowerment Funds program, which was reduced by \$10,000 in fiscal year 2013. Despite the reduction, creative approaches to financially supporting self-advocates and family members allowed the program to serve approximately the same number of persons as in 2012. Program funding is targeted to be reduced again in fiscal year 2014, but with a more objective-based focus, the Council expects only a slight reduction in the number of people who will receive funds for training. The chart to the right illustrates the number of self-advocates and family members that have or will be supported over this three year period.



Train-the-Trainer Program Update

The Self-Advocacy Leadership series (SALS) is a training that provides education and training support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2012, Tamara Huntley became the first graduate of the "train-the-trainer" program. In 2013, Andre Williams (pictured) became the second. Andre graduated from the eight-week Self Advocacy Leadership Series and subsequently completed the six-month student teaching program. Andre has successfully taught four leadership series as lead trainer for the Greater Boston region.



The goals for the program over the next three years include certifying additional trainers to meet the ever increasing demand for the SALS program across the state, and to prepare teams to provide trainings in other skill areas to support the Independence College pilot program.

About this Report

Each year, the Council submits a Program Performance Report to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities detailing activities and achievements in meeting Five-Year State Plan goals and objectives. Copies are available at www.mass.gov/mddc. Alternative formats of this report are available upon request.

We encourage you to give us feedback. Please send all questions and comments to craig.hall@state.ma.us.



**Follow us on
Facebook and Twitter!**

