



# TOGETHER

MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

LIVE, LEARN, WORK, AND PLAY ➔ 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## OUR MISSION

We create change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need.

## OUR VISION

People with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together.

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## DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

A new year, a new state plan, and new opportunities. This year was the first year of our new 5-year state plan. The State Plan is like a roadmap we follow to get where we want to be. It shows how we create change, take action, and improve lives.

### Our goals are:

- People with developmental disabilities are leaders and advocates.
- People with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to live the lives they want.
- People with developmental disabilities and their families have access to their communities and services and supports. They are treated with dignity and respect.

These goals support the Council's vision and mission. We know we cannot do this alone so we bring together people with developmental disabilities, their family members, organizations, and others. Together we find solutions to problems and take action to bring about change.

### Together in 2022, we took action to:

- Increase the knowledge of 63,915 people about issues that are important to be people with developmental disabilities.
- Empower almost 3,500 people with training through the projects we supported.
- Create or improve 25 programs and policies so more people live the lives they want with the support they need.

The Council continued to make sure that more Marylanders had easy to understand information and resources about important topics. We focused on creating and sharing information in plain language and translated into different languages. This included COVID fact sheets developed with the Maryland Department of Health.

As we keep taking bold steps to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities, we will use the new State Plan and new opportunities to take action together, and make sure people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together.

Sincerely,



*Dee Sapp*  
**Dee Sapp**  
Chairperson



*Rachel London*  
**Rachel London**  
Executive Director





## HOW WE CREATE CHANGE

**WE LEAD:** we take bold steps to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. We help lead the way with new ideas.

**WE PARTNER:** we bring together people with developmental disabilities, their family members, organizations, and others. Together we find solutions to problems and take action to bring about change.

**WE ADVISE:** we are a trusted advisor to leaders in state government and the state legislature. We work with them to improve laws, policies, programs, and services.

**WE ADVOCATE:** we advocate for people with developmental disabilities to have the same opportunities in life that other members of the community have. We advocate for people to be included and supported so they are successful.

**WE INFORM:** we provide information and resources so people with disabilities and their family members can understand their rights, increase their independence, and find the services and supports they need.

**WE EMPOWER:** we fund advocacy and leadership training. People with developmental disabilities and their family members learn how to effectively advocate for themselves and others.

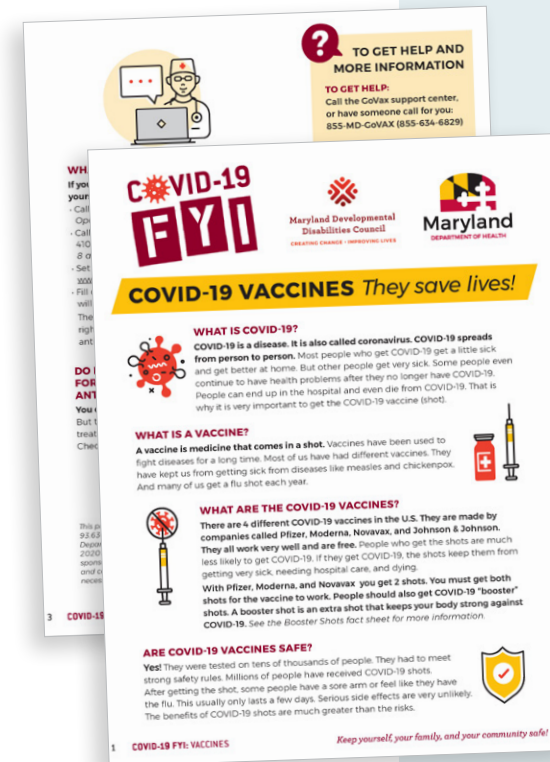
**WE EDUCATE:** we help teachers, employers, and other community members understand developmental disabilities. Our goal is for them to welcome and include people with disabilities.

**WE FIND SOLUTIONS:** we are the leading organization in Maryland that funds grants focused on developmental disabilities. Grantees develop and test new ideas. We use what we learn to bring about change throughout Maryland.

## WE CHANGE LIVES!

## COVID

In 2021, the Council got a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Administration for Community Living to improve access to and information about COVID vaccines (shots). With this funding, the Council partnered with the Maryland Department of Health to create plain language fact sheets. The Council also partnered with Bikur Cholim to provide COVID shots to people with disabilities, family members, and direct support professionals in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The work ended in 2022.



## COVID FACT SHEETS

- “We are excited to release this information in plain language and a variety of languages so that all Marylanders have access to information they understand and trust,” said Rachel London, Council Executive Director. “With so much information about COVID, it is important that it is accessible.”
- “We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and our collaboration on these fact sheets reflects our common desire to reach as many people as possible.” Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader
- “These fact sheets are OUTSTANDING! We’ve sent them to everyone across the Institute and we are uploading them onto our website. Great work!” Maureen van Stone, Director, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute
- 6,418 people downloaded the fact sheets
- Translated into 12 languages

## WE LEAD

**495** people with  
disabilities vaccinated

**100** home  
vaccinations scheduled

**7,740** residents  
vaccinated in Baltimore  
City and Baltimore County



# WE INFORM →

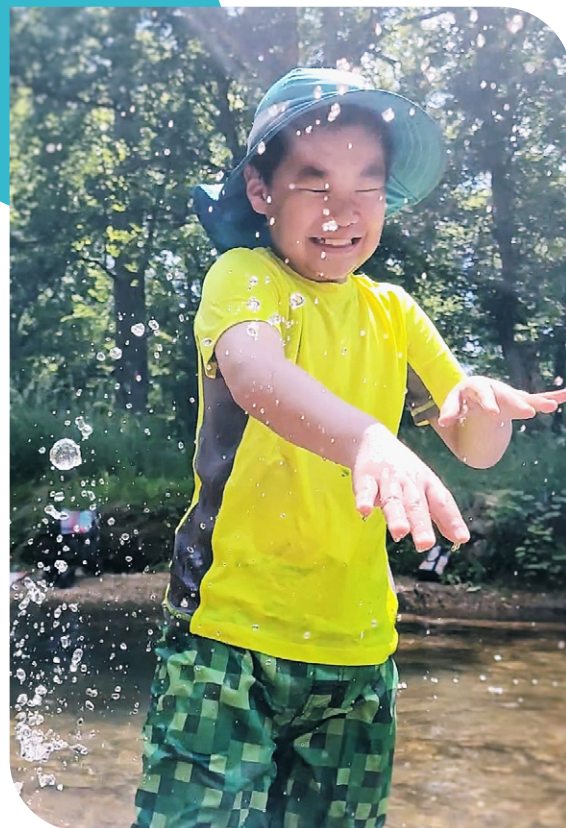
## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Council continued to make sure that more Marylanders had easy to understand information and resources about important topics. We did this by making sure everything we share is in plain language and translated into different languages.

**63,915** people increased their knowledge about issues of importance for people with developmental disabilities.

**3,402** people downloaded information and resources from the Council's website.

**2,543** people received translated information and resources.



## RECREATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

In 2022, the Council held a photo contest to increase awareness about inclusive recreation and relationships for people with developmental disabilities.

← Destin loves water, music, animals, and hanging out with his family. In the summer, he enjoys hiking to the stream to play in the water. Destin and his family are thankful Montgomery County parks and the Department of Environmental Protection do a great job maintaining a clean stream.

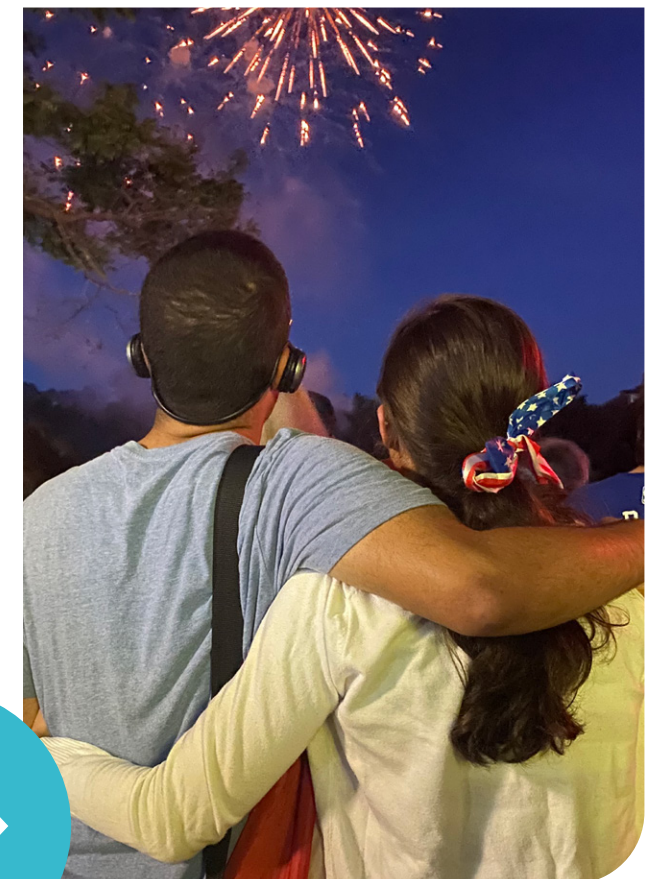


A tisket, a tasket, Marcy Will has her own flower basket... actually an entire garden! Marcy takes great pride and satisfaction in tending to the flowers she lovingly planted herself. Her smile brings joy to all around her.



Esther and Adesola are enjoying Disney World in Florida. Traveling is very helpful to Adesola, allowing him to explore and see the world.

Zach and Clara have been dating for 8 years. Neither are fans of loud noises, but with each other's support (plus headphones and earplugs) they enjoyed the July 4th fireworks. Zach attends University of Maryland TerpsEXCEED, Clara graduated from the Career Studies program at Penn State Harrisburg, and they both work in the community.





# WE PARTNER →

## LEADERSHIP

People with developmental disabilities and family members continue to improve child care, education, family support, recreation, and other services in Maryland. Projects funded by the Council gave them the resources and knowledge they needed to be strong leaders and advocates who can talk about what they need and want, and bring about change that helps others.

### IN 2022 THE COUNCIL FUNDED:

**5** large grants

**13** small grants

### COUNCIL GRANTS PROVIDED TRAINING FOR:

**85** people with developmental disabilities

**306** family members

**5000+** community members

### Partners in Policymaking® – Year 4

- 12 people with developmental disabilities and 20 family members completed Partners in Policymaking®
- Everyone who participated in Partners was satisfied with the program.

*“I plan to use what I learned in Partners to advocate for better programs for people with disabilities and more programs available on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.”*

*“Nothing about us without us!”*



- **226 more people with developmental disabilities participated in POG activities.** They learned about issues, built skills, and began speaking for themselves.
- **5 policies and programs changed** because of joint advocacy efforts between POG and the Council.
- **7 people with developmental disabilities trained other people with developmental disabilities** through Empowering Partners
- **5 local self-advocacy groups participated** in Empowering Partners
- “I am looking forward to **getting people together and growing advocacy**. This was a really great retreat to catapult our efforts forward.” Empowering Partners Facilitator
- “I feel like **this has helped me know how to be more effective** in supporting our group’s membership to grow.” Empowering Partners Facilitator

# ← WE EMPOWER

## ADVOCACY

People with developmental disabilities need to lead advocacy efforts to improve policies and programs that affect their lives. The Council invests money and provides technical assistance to People on the Go of Maryland (POG), the statewide self-advocacy group led by people with developmental disabilities, so they can do just that! Together, we educate and advocate for change with state agencies, the state legislature, and the community. POG provides training, assistance, and support to a network of local self-advocacy groups through Empowering Partners, an extension of the Partners in Policymaking® program. This helps them learn about issues, build skills, speak for themselves, and advocate.



- ← **Amber was determined to take what she learned in Partners in Policymaking® to create change and improve lives.** She teamed up with a fellow classmate to address the direct support professional (DSP) workforce shortage. Using her experiences and what she learned in Partners, they created a plan to increase wages and career advancement opportunities for DSPs. We are excited to see how her advocacy creates change.





## WE EDUCATE ↓

The Council is committed to making sure that people with developmental disabilities and their families are understood, welcomed, and included in their communities. We work closely with different community leaders to make sure that happens. This year, we focused funding on programs that reached diverse and underserved groups.

### Our work with the Ethiopian and Eritrean community led to:

- **20 youth with developmental disabilities** trained
- **40 parents** of youth with developmental disabilities trained
- **179 Ethiopian and Eritrean community leaders** trained
- **2 youth with developmental disabilities** received internships with local businesses
- **3 students** got jobs in the community
- **1 student** was accepted to Montgomery College adult education program

*"I have autism, but that doesn't make me different. I am going to have my own YouTube show, and my show is going to be fun. I want to start my YouTube show because it shows support for kids with autism."*

**ABIGAIL**  
**300 Leaders graduate**

## → WE ADVISE, WE ADVOCATE, AND WE FIND SOLUTIONS

**The Council created change!** We advised leaders in state government and the state legislature. We advocated for people with developmental disabilities to have the same opportunities in life that other members of the community have. We educated members of the community so they understand developmental disabilities.



**63,915** members of the general public educated about developmental disabilities issues.



**3,492** people trained through Council supported projects



**188** legislators educated about issues related to developmental disabilities.



**128** child care providers received training about how to support children with specific developmental disabilities.



**25** programs / policies created or improved



**24** councils / committees served on to improve policies, programs, and practices



As a result, more Marylanders with and without disabilities live, learn, work, and play together.



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEMBERS

### Dee Sapp

Chairperson  
Charles County

### Megan Jones

Vice Chair  
Montgomery County

### Kalani Brown

Outgoing Chairperson  
Montgomery County

### Brent Debnam

Outgoing Vice Chair  
Prince George's County

### Angie Auldrige

Washington County

### Richard Bauernschub

Howard County

### Damon Briggs

Montgomery County

### Carmen Brown

Representing Marcella  
Franczkowski, Division  
of Early intervention and  
Special Education Services,  
Maryland State Department  
of Education

### Meeka Caldwell

Prince George's County

### Jamal Cannady

Wicomico County

### Laura-Sun

Cefaratti (Sunny)  
Anne Arundel County

### Scott Dennis

Assistant State  
Superintendent, Division  
of Rehabilitation Services

### Lisa Derx

Best Buddies International

### Staci Forrest

Baltimore County

### Harold Gomes

Montgomery County

### Elizabeth Hall

Representing Secretary  
Carol Beatty, Maryland  
Department of Disabilities

### Kay Han

Montgomery County

### Kathy Hargett

Montgomery County

### Teresa Hebert

Harford County

### Jarred Jones

Baltimore County

### Kareenna Jones

Wicomico County

### Amanda Lay

Montgomery County

### Tiffany Joseph

Montgomery County

### Jed Miller

Prevention and Health  
Promotion Administration,  
Maryland Department  
of Health

### Rebecca Oliver

Office of Health  
Services, Maryland  
Department of Health

### Sohail Qarni

Prevention and Health  
Promotion Administration,  
Maryland Department  
of Health

### Bernard Simons

Deputy Secretary,  
Developmental Disabilities  
Administration

### Teri Sparks

Disability Rights  
Maryland

### Irene Souada

Shared Support  
Maryland

### Maureen van Stone

Maryland Center for  
Developmental Disabilities

### Liz Weintraub

Montgomery County

### Liz Woodward

Maryland Department  
of Aging

### Russell Young

Baltimore County



## COUNCIL STAFF

### Rachel London

Executive Director

### Christy Russell

Director of Operations

### Anastasia Collins

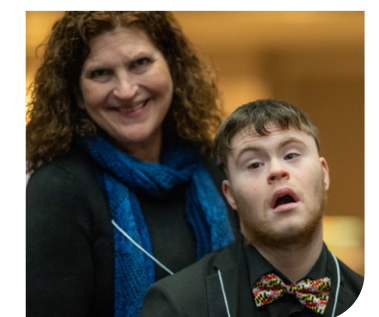
Director of Grant  
Management and Reporting

### Stephanie Dolamore

Director of Policy Initiatives

### Shawan Pearson

Administrator Coordinator

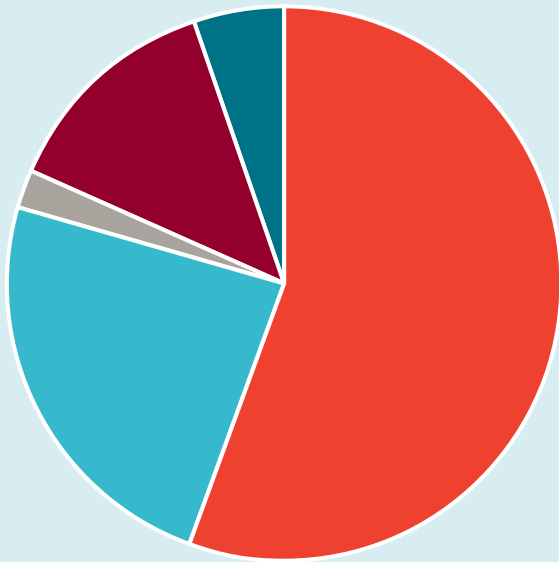


Photos from the 2023  
Developmental Disabilities  
Day at the Legislature



# INVESTMENTS

*\*Includes money from multiple grant years.*



- Community Supports: \$358,040
- Self-Advocacy: \$153,002
- Employment: \$13,425
- COVID: \$85,061
- Child Care and Education: \$32,250



To learn more,  
visit our website at  
[md-council.org](https://md-council.org)  
and follow us on



@MDDDCouncil



# WHAT WE'RE DOING IN 2023

## PEOPLE ON THE GO OF MARYLAND

*Enhancing Self-Advocacy and Public Policy Work*

Support People on the Go to train, help, and support people with developmental disabilities and local self-advocacy groups to learn about issues, build skills, speak for themselves, and be strong advocates.

## THE ARC CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE REGION *Project Learn*

Train middle and high school students with developmental disabilities to take control of their Individual Education Programs (IEP) and 504 plans, and advocate for their educational needs in Caroline County.

## PENN-MAR HUMAN SERVICES AND TRANSCEN, INC.

*Rebuilding DDA Providers with Technical Assistance*

Give technical assistance to 5 community providers to help them think of new ways to provide services. They will also provide training to people with developmental disabilities and family members so they can tell providers what they need and want. Lessons learned will be shared at statewide conference.

## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY *LEADing to Learn: Training on Working with Individuals with Developmental Disabilities for Correctional Supervisors*

Develop and implement a training program for correctional supervisors in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services–Division of Correction Jessup Correctional Region. 300 correctional supervisors will learn about how to support people with developmental disabilities in jails and prisons.

## THE ARC MARYLAND *Partners in Policymaking®*

Year 5 of Partners in Policymaking® will train more people with developmental disabilities and family members to be strong advocates and leaders.





**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

**CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES**

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