



Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

2022-2026

State Plan Summary – Easy Read Version

What is the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council?



We are an organization in Delaware.



We work to make life better for people with developmental disabilities and their families.



We want all people with developmental disabilities to be included, valued, and supported. This means:

- People with and without disabilities live, learn, work, and have fun together.
- Everyone has the same opportunities in life.
- People have power and control over their own lives.



The Council's funding (money) comes from the federal government. We use our funding to work on our goals.

What is the Council's State Plan?

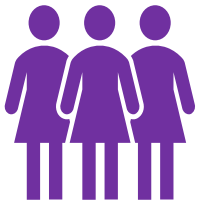


We develop a plan every 5 years. It is called our “State Plan.”

The State Plan describes what the Council will work on.

When we make progress on our State Plan, more people with developmental disabilities in Delaware are included, valued, and supported.

How does the Council decide what to work on?



We get information and ideas from a lot of different people.

This includes:

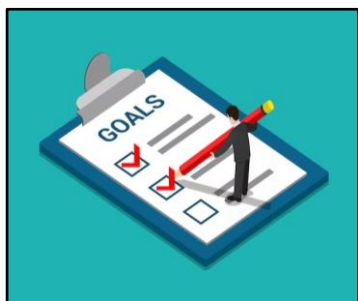
- People with developmental disabilities
- Family members
- State agencies
- Advocates
- Service providers



We read reports and other written information.



We think about all this information. That helps us decide what to work on to make life better for people with developmental disabilities in Delaware.



We then pick our goals.

Goals describe what the Council wants to see happen.



We then decide what activities will help us reach our goals. All this information goes in the State Plan.



Our staff and Council members work on different activities in the State Plan. We also give funding (money) to organizations to help us work on our goals.

What are the Council's Goals?



Goal 1: Advocacy

Delawareans with developmental disabilities will have the knowledge, skills, and support they need to lead self-directed lives. This means they control their own lives and live the lives they want.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Give an organization money to develop and support a strong self-advocacy group in Delaware.
- ✓ Pay for education and training that helps people with disabilities, their family members, and other people get information and skills.
- ✓ Pay to train professionals about how to communicate with people who do not speak.



Goal 2: Education and Early Intervention

Education rules and programs in Delaware will better serve students with developmental disabilities. More children with developmental disabilities will get a better education.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Train and support parents and other people to be good advocates.
- ✓ Give information to people with disabilities and their families about important issues and resources. And support them to share information with other people in Delaware.
- ✓ Help the community understand what people with developmental disabilities and mental illness need.



Goal 3: Housing

Delawareans with developmental disabilities will have better access to training and resources about affordable, accessible, integrated housing in the community.

- “Housing” means houses, condos, and apartments that people rent or buy.
- “Affordable” means people have enough money to pay for the housing. It does not cost too much.
- “Accessible” means everyone can get into and use the housing, including people who use wheelchairs or canes.
- “Integrated” means people with disabilities are not separated from the community.
- “Resources” are things like websites, guides, and people that have helpful information.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Work with other organizations to develop an online housing resource library for people with disabilities and advocates. An “online housing resource library” is a place on the internet you can go for a lot of useful information about housing.
- ✓ Advocate for people with disabilities from diverse backgrounds to be included on all Delaware housing committees.

Diverse backgrounds are things like different disabilities, races, and languages.



Goal 4: Health and Healthcare

More Delawareans with disabilities will get the healthcare and other services they need and want in the community.

To make this happen, the Council will:

- ✓ Work to improve transition services for people with developmental disabilities. Transition services help people find the services they need when they make a change like moving from school to adult services, moving out of their family’s home, or leaving a facility.

Better services will help people get the supports they need at home and in the community instead of places that separate them from everyone else.

- ✓ Give people with developmental disabilities and their families training and information so they can advocate for their health needs.

We will work with African Americans and people who usually speak a language other than English.



Do you have questions or want more information?

Go to our website at ddc.delaware.gov

or

Call us at 302-739-3333