

Council's Mission

To advocate for and support people with developmental disabilities to exercise control over their lives and participate fully in the community.

What is a Developmental Disability?

A developmental disability is a severe, chronic intellectual and/or physical impairment which occurs prior to the age of 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, requiring a combination of individualized services and supports throughout a lifetime, and results in significant limitations in three or more of these major life activities:

- Speaking and Understanding Language
- Ability to Make Decisions
- Living Independently
- Financial Independence
- Mobility
- Self-care
- Learning

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Council Members

The Council's membership consists of 28 Louisiana citizens appointed by the Governor and includes:

- People with developmental disabilities
- Parents or immediate family members of people with developmental disabilities
- Representatives of state and private agencies



Advocacy

Advocating for the concerns of people with developmental disabilities and their families by informing both state and federal leaders;

Educating the public about issues impacting people with developmental disabilities

Capacity Building

Building the capacity of self-advocates and parents to participate in public policy advocacy through the provision of information, training, and ongoing support;

Building the capacity of the service system to better meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities through the provision of training and technical assistance;

Building the capacity of the community at large to include people with DD through public awareness activities;

Systems Change

Monitoring and evaluating policies and services that impact people with developmental disabilities;

Promoting best practice and quality in services and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families;

Collaborating with other organizations to promote systems change;

The Council's Values

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 over their lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society.

Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most severe disabilities, are capable of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, but often require the provision of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance.

Communities are enriched by the full and active participation and contributions of Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.



Council Initiatives

Families Helping Families – a state wide network of family-directed and family-staffed resource centers which provide information and referral, peer-to-peer support, and education and training to Individuals with disabilities and their families.

LaCAN – a grassroots network which advocates for expansion of individual and family supports to enable people with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes and be fully participating members of their communities.

Partners in Policymaking – a six-month weekend training program providing leadership development for parents of young children with developmental disabilities and people with developmental disabilities.

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*The Council is supported by a
full-time professional staff.*



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Promoting
Self-Determination,
Independence, Productivity,
Integration and Inclusion
in All Facets of Community
Life for People with
Developmental Disabilities



www.laddc.org