

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUCIL RELEASES
PROPOSED 5 YEAR STATE PLAN
DDC Welcomes Community Feedback and Comments

Media

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The District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is proposing a new 5 Year State Plan between 2012 and 2016 for DC residents with developmental disabilities and their families. The DDC is an independent, community-based advisory committee funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Council possesses a membership of 15 dedicated individuals charged with identifying and addressing the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in the DC community.

A new 5 Year State Plan for the District is mandated by ADD, and the development of the proposed plan was based on extensive community outreach over the past several months. Four community outreach forums were conducted between February and April. Nearly 200 self-advocates with developmental disabilities, family members, and friends representing all 8 District wards shared their thoughts and concerns regarding the services available to them or their loved one. Additionally, over 130 surveys were collected from community members to identify the needs and gaps in services for people with developmental disabilities.

The proposed State Plan focuses on several areas of significance to the developmental disabilities community. Highlights include concrete goals and outcomes regarding employment, developing self-advocacy and determination skills, housing, recreation, and connecting parents to early intervention services.

“This plan is extremely ambitious,” expresses DDC Director Mat McCollough. “Not only does it show the DDC’s continuous commitment in addressing the critical needs of our community, but the plan places emphasis for collaboration with community organizations and District government agencies in order to achieve the proposed goals and outcomes in the State Plan.”

The proposed 5 Year State Plan will be available for public comment until Wednesday, July 13, 2011. Self-advocates, parents, friends and loved ones are all welcomed to review and submit comments to the DDC. Comments will only be accepted from DC residents. Community members have 4 ways of participating in the comment period:

1. By Phone: Contact Denice McCain at (202) 724-8612
2. By Fax: (202) 727-9484
3. Email: mathew.mccollough@dc.gov
4. Mail:

DC Developmental Disabilities Council 441 4th ST NW Suite 729 North
Washington, DC 20001

In addition, the DDC will be meeting with local disability organizations and conducting a few community outreach forums to ensure that self-advocates, family members and friends can participate throughout the feedback period. Please contact DDC Director Mat McCollough at mathew.mccollough@dc.gov or (202) 727-6744 to learn more about the DC Developmental Disabilities Council or its proposed 5 Year State Plan.