



Arkansas Governor's

Developmental Disabilities Council



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Our 2007-2011 State Plan

The Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council has completed updating the five-year plan for federal fiscal year(s) 2007-2011. The Council's primary purpose is to promote through systemic change "innovative" model projects specifically designed to assist persons with developmental disabilities to achieve independence, productivity and integration and inclusion into the community. We would like to solicit your input on selected goals and objectives and ask that you complete and return the attached questionnaire. Comments can be faxed, written or emailed (lcussell@healthyarkansas.com). If you have additional questions, please contact the Council at (501)661-2589 or Voice/TDD 1-800-462-0599, ext 661-2589.

About the Council and Its 2007-2011 State Plan

The Developmental Disabilities Council is a federally-funded state agency established to bring the perspective of individuals with developmental disabilities and his or her family or natural support system to policy makers and make improvements to the service system. Federal law requires the Council to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to have the information and knowledge needed to assist them in making informed decisions about services appropriate to meet their individualized situations.

The Council believes individuals and their families should be the primary decision makers regarding issues which affect their lives and they should be provided with opportunities to participate in the development of policies and services. The Council supports the development of a service system with an array of services that allows individuals and families to make choices which meet their unique needs. The Council understands that individual and family needs change and believes the service system should be flexible and versatile enough to accommodate differing situations.

The 2007-2011 State Plan addresses specific information required by the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and includes the Council's "Areas of Emphasis" and resulting goals and objectives for the next five years. Based on a needs assessment and other forms of information gathering, the Council has selected employment, education, transportation, health, and quality assurance from the federal areas of emphasis as priorities for current Council activities. All programs and projects of the Council, regardless of priority, are to be conducted in a manner that respects individual differences and cultural diversity.

What are the priorities of the Council, and why?

Public Law 106-402 specifies federal "areas of emphasis" which direct Council activities. Councils have latitude in selecting areas of focus based upon identified needs. The areas of emphasis include quality assurance activities, education and early intervention activities, child care related activities, health-related activities, housing activities, transportation activities, recreation activities, and other activities in the community that affect quality of life.

The Council used information gathered from public meetings, forums and comments sponsored by state agencies and advocacy groups to select current year activities. Meetings were scheduled at numerous sites throughout the state. Individuals, parents, service providers, and agency representatives attended the meetings and provided local input on areas of need. Using information collected in these meetings, the Council has selected Employment, Education, Transportation, Health, and Quality Assurance as the focus for the years 2007-2011

Summary of Goals and Objectives

All Council goals for the 2007-2011 State Plan fall within the selected federal priority areas. During this Plan Cycle, the Council has chosen to focus on areas within these priorities that it has determined are most in need of systemic change, capacity building and advocacy in Arkansas. These priority areas are:

- ◆ Quality Assurance
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Transportation

Listed under each “area of emphasis” is the goal related to that area of emphasis, followed by each goal’s objective(s).

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Goal – Families have a range of available service options and supports that improve quality of life.

Objectives

1. By 2011, at least one statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported to provide leadership training to people with developmental disabilities and to secure multiple funding sources for continued support.
2. By 2011, 150 parents will have attended training programs to increase their knowledge, leadership skills and abilities to assert their preferences and rights.
3. By 2011, 2500 individuals and families will have access to education and information about emerging trends in services for persons with developmental disabilities by attending the annual state conference.
4. By 2011, 2500 families and individuals with developmental disabilities will be provided training, education opportunities and follow-up contact.
5. By 2011, 15,000 printed resource materials will be disseminated to families and individuals with developmental disabilities.
6. By 2011, 1,000 policymakers will be educated about issues affecting people with disabilities.

EDUCATION

Goal – Students reach their educational and developmental potential through increased opportunities for inclusive education.

Objectives

1. By 2011, at least 100 parents will have participated in training to increase their knowledge and skills regarding IDEA.
2. By 2011, pilot projects will be funded to strengthen parent/school partnerships around the child with a disability in the areas of improved communication skills, development of positive behavioral supports, and transition programs for students from school to work and/or secondary and vocational training.

EMPLOYMENT

Goal – Individuals have increased opportunities to have employment of their choice and supports needed to function in a variety of job settings.

Objectives

1. By 2011, at least one business or organization with no employees with disabilities (overall or in particular sites or areas of operation) will employ a person or persons with disabilities with adequate supports to promote success.
2. By 2011, educate policymakers about employment opportunities and support legislation to encourage businesses to employ people with disabilities.

HEALTH

Goal – Individuals have improved health through increased flexibility, choice, and control in services and supports.

Objectives

1. By 2011, identify initiatives to increase the number of health professionals in underserved areas.
2. By 2011, increase awareness of healthy lifestyles by developing and distributing educational resources that encourage physical fitness programs for people with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION

Goal – Individuals have increased access to transportation through improved coordination and cooperation among transportation providers.

Objectives

1. By 2011, promote awareness of transportation needs for access to community participation (work and recreational).
2. By 2011, pursue involvement of public and private transportation providers to develop initiatives to address transportation needs within the state.

4. If you answered “no” to any of priority areas, please specify which goals and objectives, from the summary listing, you disagree with, why you disagree and any thoughts you have on the topic.

5. Overall, are there other Goals and Objectives you think the Council should focus its resources and efforts on during the next three years?

Other Comments?

Optional Information:	Name: _____	e-mail address: _____
	Street Address: _____	
	City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
	Telephone: (____) _____	
<p>Thank you for your interest in the Arkansas Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council’s state plan. Please return this questionnaire to the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arkansas Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council 5800 West 10th Street, Suite 805 Little Rock, AR 72204</p> <p>or, if you prefer, you can fax it to (501) 661-2399 or email it to lcrussell@healthyarkansas.com</p>		