

We Believe...

In communities where all people have a “voice” and are heard with respect. In safe communities where all people have equal value.

In communities that are friendly and support equality

and fulfilling relationships.

With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams, abilities; and

That the humanity we share is more important than our different abilities.

The Mission of VTDDC is to help build connections and supports that bring people with developmental disabilities and their families into the heart of Vermont communities.

For more information about VTDDC’s projects and becoming a member, contact us at:

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VERMONT
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
COUNCIL



2014
Public Policy
Priorities

Member 
And funded by  ADMINISTRATION ON
INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members. VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employment.

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2011.

283 people from across VT participated in a survey about what needed to happen and over 150 attended forums held around the state.



The Priorities are embedded in **VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2012-2016)** that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.

STRENGTHEN VERMONT'S DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE SYSTEM through legislative review with checks and balances

- Ensure that significant changes go through the Rulemaking process.
- Ensure system priorities are based on assessment of need.
- Require rigorous quality assessment and assurance of community supports.
- Ensure annual reporting to the Legislature that addresses Vermont Developmental Disabilities Act Principles of Service and unmet needs.

PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Insure that Vermonters with developmental disabilities can work, live and thrive

- End waiting lists for people in need of developmental services.
- Reverse the trend towards segregated congregate day services and contracted wrap packages.
- Restore and expand flexible supports and options for children, adults and families.
- Restore funding to peer and family organizations for cost-effective support.

Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to be able to work for more hours and higher wages in jobs that they choose

- Make employment a priority for all, not just recent high school graduates.
- Restore job development positions and invest in other customized resources.
- Restore cuts to individual job supports to increase the rate and hours people are working.

People with developmental disabilities need quality supports and well trained staff

- Ensure direct service standards and statewide oversight of training so that people have high quality staff that knows how to support them to be part of the community.
- Restore state-level quality assurance staff so that reviews are not crisis driven.

Vermont needs an independent information, referral, and assistance resource for people with disabilities and their families across the lifespan

- Support a state-wide specialized service that ensures people with developmental disabilities and family members get unbiased information on how to navigate complicated systems.