



Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2017

The Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) is federally funded through the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) and is authorized by Public Law 106-402 to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through system-wide advocacy, planning, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. More than 60 percent of the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Council membership consists of individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members who are appointed by the Governor. The remainder of Council membership includes state agency representatives. This diversity enables the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities to better analyze and improve systems and services within Alabama and ensure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families are heard.

Every five years, the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities creates a State Plan, informed by statewide input from the disability community. The 2017-2021 State Plan focuses primarily on two goals: to increase inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in all lifestyle elements and to improve existing support systems so persons with developmental disabilities can live independently and thrive in their community. For 2017, efforts to increase inclusion were made in the areas of housing, employment, transportation, and multicultural outreach. Trainings designed to increase knowledge of rights, how to advocate for them, and how to navigate the legislative system were provided to persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Support for aging caregivers, training for first responders, legislative advocacy, the implementation of EnABLE Savings Plan for Alabama, are among the efforts implemented to improve support systems. Learn more in the pages ahead.



Photos for this publication courtesy of Photographers of BraveHeart Center for Place and Purpose, Auburn, Alabama, with support of the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities. To learn more, visit www.cla.auburn.edu/cpp.

 **EMPLOYMENT**

- > 10 Project SEARCH sites supported (to learn more go to: <http://www.employmentfirst-bama.org/Pathways/Services/ProjectSEARCH.html>)
- > 71 Project SEARCH graduates
- > 73% of Project SEARCH graduates were offered competitive employment
- > Executive Order endorsing the employment of people with disabilities in Alabama signed by Governor Kay Ivey
- > Governor's first Disability Job Fair held in Birmingham on October 30
- > 95 employers participated in Disability Job Fair
- > 1,100 job seekers attended Disability Job Fair
- > Person-centered employment training completed by 10 self-advocates
- > National Disability Employment Awareness week "I Can" campaign advertised online and shared by over 300 persons
- > Employment First campaign efforts completed "Provider Transformation" to 9 service providers
- > Employment First campaign provided:
 - >> 618 individualized employment services
 - >> 47 community employment placements
 - >> 59 individuals received job coaching services
 - >> 199 individuals received community prevocational services

Collaborators include U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, AL Association of Persons in Supported Employment, Governor Kay Ivey, Alabama Department of Labor, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Project SEARCH, Calhoun County Schools, Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center

 **HOUSING**

- > Online Housing Readiness Assessment created to measure strengths and improvements needed for success in living independently. Assessment provides accessibly housing availability listings by zip code throughout Alabama.
- > Trained 85 Alabama Realtors in Accessibility and Universal Design
- > Forged collaboration with Vantage Properties to utilize Housing Readiness Assessment to identify candidates to occupy 12 new accessible apartments
- > Distributed 365 Housing flyers statewide

Collaborators include Abilities Unlimited, Montgomery Area Association of Realtors, and Vantage Development





TRANSPORTATION

- > 16 Barriers to transportation identified in *The Transportation Predicament: Getting People to Places* (a statewide transportation assessment supported by ACDD in collaboration with the Regional Planning Council of Greater Birmingham)
- > 10 transportation alternatives identified
- > Transportation training presented to 12 Alabama Regional Transportation Councils reaching 485 persons
- > Transportation training presented to 30 persons at AL-APSE Conference
- > Tuscaloosa Transportation Needs Assessment for people with developmental disabilities completed through response of 14 businesses and 92 participant surveys
- > Tuscaloosa City Council presented with results of Tuscaloosa Transportation Needs Assessment

Collaborators include the Regional Transportation Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Regional Transportation Councils, Alabama Association of Persons in Supported Employment, Northport City Council



MULTICULTURAL EFFORTS

- > Korean Cultural Disability Course developed and completed by 47 persons
- > 17 Volunteer Korean Translators trained in disability resources
- > Assistive Technology Guide provided in Spanish translation
- > Multicultural Disability Course offered through 14 presentation and 50 meetings
- > DD awareness flyers offered in 12 languages
- > Distributed DD awareness materials to persons in 17 languages
- > 8,000 multicultural newsletters mailed
- > 1,744 persons of various cultures reached via social media
- > 27 families received disability training through "New Alabamians" course

Collaborators included Alabama Korean Economic Exchange Program, Ashakiran Inc., Alabama State Department of Education, Tiendo Guanajuato, La Luminaria, La Fe Supermarket



SELF ADVOCACY

- > 7 self-advocate trainers presented Young Emerging Leaders training
- > 178 advocates completed Young Emerging Leaders training
- > 5 self-advocate trainers presented Keys to the Community inclusion training
- > 100 advocates completed Keys to the Community inclusion training
- > Provided Chapter Support Coordinator for People First of Alabama
- > 3 new People First Chapters created
- > 4 People First Chapters revitalized
- > 22Q Advocacy Group created with enrollment of 65 members
- > 23,523 Alabamians learned of 22Q through advocacy efforts
- > Building Unity through Diversity (BUD) Korean self-advocacy group created with 28 student members
- > Young Adults in Transition (YAIT) program trained 213 students in self-advocacy
- > 7 Shelby County high schools created official YAIT chapters
- > Walker County self-advocacy group created with 53 members
- > Program for the Evaluation and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) training completed by 9 self-advocates and 18 parents
- > 68 persons attended local Movie Days which were planned, supported, and provided by self-advocates
- > Supported self-advocates in community outreach efforts that resulted in the collection and donation of 1,861 pounds of food, 18 blankets, and 110 toys
- > Self-advocates trained 72 student volunteers through direct interaction

Collaborators include People First of Alabama, Arc of Jefferson County, Ability Alliance, United Ability, Glenwood Healthcare, Highland Healthcare, Chilton County Mental Health Center, Volunteers of America, University of Alabama Huntsville, Jacksonville State University, Alabama Parent Education Center, Huntsville Civitan Club, Calhoun Community College, Arc of Calhoun County, Arc of Cleburn County, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Anniston Therapeutic Recreation Center, Alabama Korean Economic Exchange Program, Troy University, Sulligent City Council, BraveHeart Center for Place and Purpose





SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- > Aging caregiver course Helping Those Who Care provided to 112 people
- > 205 people received *Caregiver* newsletter monthly
- > 15,000 people viewed news broadcast focusing on aging caregivers
- > Assistive Technology Guide developed and distributed to 375 people
- > Rural Caregiver Support Group created in Walker County with 50 members
- > Caroline Carts obtained by 2 grocery stores in Walker County
- > 1 accessible bathroom installed at baseball park in Walker County
- > 120 people attended workshop piloting the National Community of Practice: Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities duplicated for Alabama
- > Community of Practice Core Team of 15 members established and attended 12 meetings
- > Inside Out Art Studio opened in Huntsville having 22 advocate artists in residence
- > First Responder Response to I/DD course developed and completed by 73 law enforcement officers
- > Supported Alabama House Bill 284 to provide insurance coverage for the treatment of autism
- > EnABLE Savings Plan for Alabama implemented
- > BraveHeart Center for Place and Purpose opened, hosting 12 participants in meaningful daily activities
- > \$45,000 additional dollars leveraged by projects designed to improve existing support systems
- > 187 people reached through direct public awareness efforts

Collaborators include United Cerebral Palsy Huntsville, TriCounty Agency for Intellectual Disabilities, Auburn University School of Social Work, First Presbyterian Church of Auburn, Auburn College of Liberal Arts, Inside Out Studio, Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center, National Community of Practice, Jasper Parks and Recreation Department, Jasper City Council, Son's Grocery, Winn-Dixie of Jasper, Sirote and Piorote Law Firm, People First of Alabama, UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinic, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Board of Education, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Alabama Head Injury Foundation, Alabama Medicaid, Down Syndrome of Alabama, Independent Living Centers, State of Alabama Treasury, Interaction Advisory Group





Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities

MISSION:

To support independence, advocacy, productivity, and inclusion for Alabamians with developmental disabilities.

VISION:

All Alabamians, regardless of disability, will live, learn, work, and play in inclusive communities.



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