



Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities

Executive Summary for
Fiscal Year 2022



equality

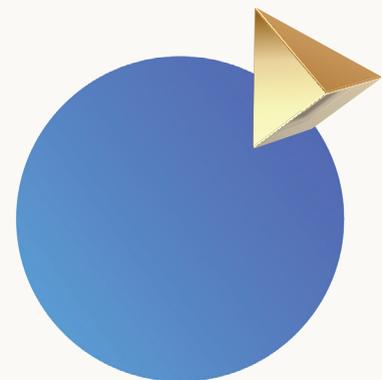


The Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities (ACDD) is federally funded through the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Disabilities, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and is authorized by Public Law 106-402 to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through system-wide advocacy, planning, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. More than 60 percent of the Council membership consists of individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members who are appointed by the Governor. Council members are geographically representative of Alabama and represent the diversity of Alabama with respect to race and ethnicity. The remainder of Council membership includes representatives from state agencies that provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities; representatives from the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the State Protection and Advocacy System; and a representative from a local and non-governmental agency, a non-profit governmental agency, and a private non-profit organization, each concerned with services for people with developmental

disabilities. 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 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan has four priority areas: Education and Early Intervention, Employment, Formal and Informal Community Supports, and Health. As a result, the four goals focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) receiving education that supports their rights, needs, and interests; obtaining competitive, integrated employment; accessing and using formal and informal community supports; and accessing healthcare services and supports that address their needs and choices and enhance their quality of life. Via these goals, the Council promotes and supports independence, advocacy, productivity, and inclusion for Alabamians with developmental disabilities.

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) marks the beginning of the 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan. During FY22, the Council was able to support individuals with I/DD and their families in each priority area of the state plan. For example, the Council supported leadership/advocacy training for persons with I/DD and their family members as well as employment preparation/training for young adults with I/DD to secure competitive, integrated employment. Learn more about the work of the Council during the first year of its 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan in the pages ahead.





DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Yearly, to facilitate inclusion in all areas of life, the Council promotes Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) via an awareness campaign. Based on community input about campaign messaging for 2022, the FY22 campaign revolved around seeing and getting to know people with I/DD as employees, graduates, neighbors, etc. Along with social media graphics and news articles, digital outdoor billboards were placed around the state in urban and rural areas. Graphics from the 2022 DDAM campaign are above.

ACDD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Council also started a monthly newsletter in FY22. The newsletter includes information on Council grantees and other disability related news and resources. It reached 861 people during FY22. An example of a portion of a monthly newsletter is to the right.

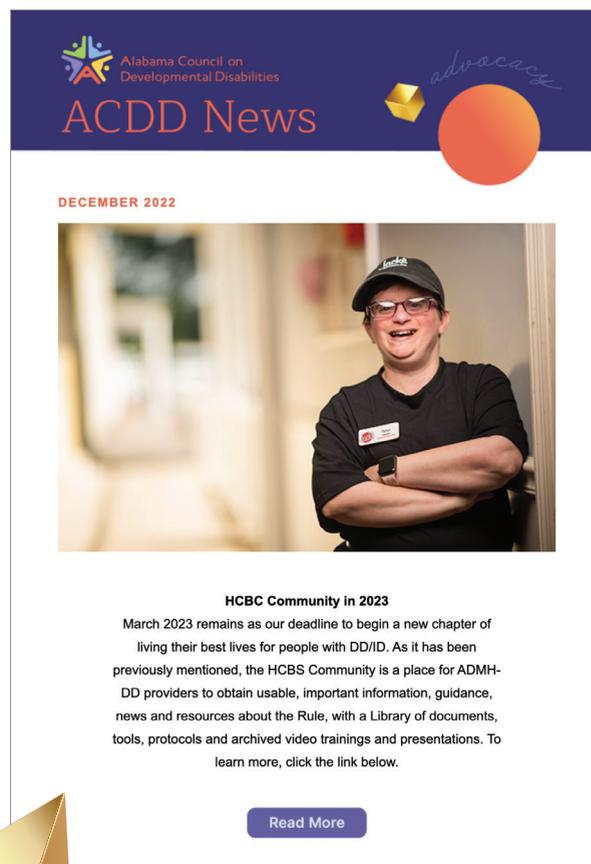
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH I/DD

The Council continued to support the Community of Practice (COP) for Supporting Families of Individuals with I/DD. For example, efforts included supporting

the facilitation of the COP Alabama Family Advisory Network (FAN) state meetings, supporting the attendance of state team members at the Annual Meeting for the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families and Annual Charting the Life Course Showcase and, in conjunction with the National COP Team, assisting with the continued planning for the Intake Summit scheduled for 2023, which is designed to discover and develop opportunities to better support families throughout the lifespan. For more information on the COP, visit <https://supportstofamilies.org/> or email darryle.powell@mh.alabama.gov.

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) SETTINGS RULE

The Council supported the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) with providing information about the Home and Community-Based Settings Rule to individuals with I/DD and their families. For example, information about five regional meetings provided by the ADMH, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, and People First of Alabama was provided to the Council during a quarterly meeting in FY22. To learn more, visit acdd.org/hcbs/



COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Council also launched a campaign to recruit Council members during FY22. Applications for membership could be completed on the acdd.org website. The online application could be translated into multiple languages, including Spanish. A PDF copy of the application was also available on the website for download in English and Spanish. Other recruitment materials (e.g., Frequently Asked Questions, Flyer) were also available in English and Spanish. Recruitment activities included email marketing, a digital campaign, a mass mail-out, a radio advertisement (English and Spanish), an advertisement in disability-related magazines and magazines that reach rural areas, and television interviews. The Council received over 65 Council membership applications during its membership campaign in FY22. A graphic from the FY22 membership campaign is above to the right.



COVID-19 EFFORTS

The Alabama Developmental Disabilities Network (DD Network) partners include the Council, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP), and the Alabama University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Civitan International Research Center and Sparks Clinics. During FY22, the Alabama DD Network continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 via the support of vaccination clinics. The Network established partnerships with various entities throughout the state to provide opportunities for people to be vaccinated. For example, vaccination clinics were held in Butler County, Macon County, and Bullock County; individuals attending the clinics could receive the COVID-19 vaccine or simply receive awareness materials.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Council continued to support Alabamians with I/DD and their families with being severe weather ready and prepared for disasters via support of the WSFA Alabama Weather Guide 2022 Edition and related awareness. Chief WSFA

meteorologist Josh Johnson also presented at one of the quarterly Council meetings during FY22. Given that Alabama experiences severe weather, it is important that members of the public are aware of how to be disaster ready.

GOAL ONE

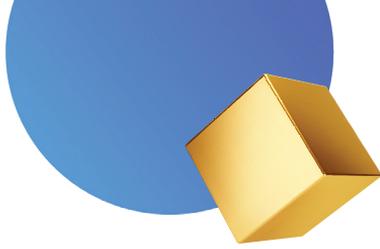
Alabamians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and their support networks will have more access to and knowledge of rights and resources pertaining to education and early intervention so that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive education that supports their rights, needs, and interests.

Highlights of Efforts Supporting the Education and Early Intervention Priority Area (Goal One) in Fiscal Year 2022:

- > 275 workbooks designed to assist individuals with disabilities, their families, and educators with the transition of students with disabilities into adulthood shipped to high schools and boards of education
- > Over 65 live broadcasts on topics related to early intervention, special education, transitioning to post-secondary education or community living, employment, inclusion, advocacy, and long-term care services provided by people with I/DD, their family members, state agency representatives, etc.

- > Support of a Summer College Fair, which was a component of the 2022 Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance Conference, that had 11 other inclusive higher education programs represented from the southeast United States to afford self-advocates, families, and professionals the opportunity to gather information about inclusive higher education
- > 11 individuals with I/DD served as community inclusion ambassadors providing targeted community interventions (e.g., photography project, blanket drive, community walk, care package development) to build more inclusive communities
- > Support of an inclusive post-secondary education program located at a historically black college and university to increase opportunities for young adults with I/DD, including those who are Hispanic, to live independently and gain competitive integrated employment
- > Development of an Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) Crop Production Handbook for Teachers that has 11 easy-to-read short chapters to support the provision of basic gardening training to students with disabilities and agriculture teachers
- > 173 Wonderbooks, which are all-inclusive audio picture books, and 733 nonfiction titles with high-interest, low Lexile levels were added to a library collection in north Alabama to support the provision of educational resources at the library for people with I/DD
- > Supported the Hispanic Training and Resource Advocacy Network (HTRAN) to increase outreach to and the awareness of services and supports for Hispanic families impacted by I/DD; a demonstration of project success included that Maria Gutierrez, Family Navigator, was awarded the Outstanding Commitment to Inclusion and Diversity Award by the Auburn University College of Education
- > Support of a Korean hotline phone service, which received about two to five inquiries per week, and support of about 27 web-based live-streaming interpretation services (e.g., individual Zoom meetings, webinars) for Koreans with I/DD and their families
- > Over 2,500 Spanish language early intervention brochures printed for distribution; a Spanish-language video about early intervention services produced and shared through social media sites; and 77 partner sites established (e.g., libraries, YMCAs, churches, gas stations, schools, doctors' offices) to distribute early intervention resources in Shelby County
- > Examples of Collaborators
 - Full Life Ahead Foundation, Alabama Care Live, Copperwing Design, Auburn University Brave Hearts Center for Place and Purpose, Auburn University EAGLES Program, Alabama A&M University Bulldog LIFE Program, Auburn University Alabama Cooperative Extension Office, Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Auburn University, Arc of Shelby County, and Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership
- > Examples of Comments or Success Stories
 - Auburn University EAGLES Program: Educating and Informing Communities on Inclusive Higher Education Programs: Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Preview Day. All I can say is, "Wow!" The information I previously learned was just a glimpse of the incredible opportunity for our Special Needs population of students. I'm truly impressed with the support and the opportunities that are available. In fact, hearing the level of support combined with the assistance in transitioning parents out of the tendency to over support is a skill that I know I could greatly benefit from.





GOAL TWO

Alabamians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, their support networks, and others statewide will have increased employment supports so that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can obtain competitive, integrated employment.

Highlights of Efforts Supporting the Employment Priority Area (Goal Two) in Fiscal Year 2022:

- > Supported the AL-APSE conference where nine individuals with I/DD and/or other disabilities were presenters
- > 78 individuals with I/DD completed Project SEARCH
- > 65 of the 78 Project SEARCH graduates obtained employment
- > 25 high school students with disabilities participated in the 2022 Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) and nine returning YLF graduates participated as peer mentors
- > Alabama Employment First website updated with employment information, training videos, etc., and had 1365 hits in FY22
- > Supported the creation of a Disability Etiquette and Awareness Training and comprehensive manual for employers and a training manual for disability service providers that offers guidance with planning and executing a hiring expo
- > 59 employers became official Employment Partners of the Arc of Shelby County
- > Supported the development of six employer videos to be distributed during October 2022 (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)

- > Examples of Collaborators
 - Alabama APSE, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health, United Ability, Inc., and the Arc of Shelby County, Inc.
- > Examples of Comments or Success Stories
 - 2022 AL-APSE Conference: Great presenters and great information!
 - 2022 AL-APSE Conference: This conference was very organized and informative. I needed this information for my son as well as for a friend who could not attend. Please have the conference next year.
 - Project SEARCH: Helped me look forward to my future
 - Project SEARCH: Learned to be more independent
 - Project SEARCH: Learned how to get a job and interview skills

GOAL THREE

In communities across Alabama, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will be provided more information leading to greater access to, and/or use of, formal and informal community supports.

Highlights of Efforts Supporting the Formal and Informal Community Supports Priority Area (Goal Three) in Fiscal Year 2022:

- > Facilitated supports for children with I/DD and their families in a Black Belt area
- > Revamped the Partners in Policymaking program for Alabama
- > 17 Partners in Policymaking Alabama graduates
- > Approximately 544 individuals trained on Alabama's Medicaid waivers including many self-advocates, family members, and professionals
- > About 272 rights and advocacy toolkits and/or other resources related to Alabama's Medicaid waivers distributed

- > Supported a self-advocate as a peer support specialist to assist existing self-advocacy organizations and address systemic reform issues impacting the lives of Alabamians with I/DD
- > Supported the translation of the rack card for People First of Alabama into Spanish via Auburn University HTRAN
- > Examples of Collaborators
 - McRae Learning Center, Alabama UCEDD, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
- > Examples of Comments or Success Stories
 - Partners in Policymaking Alabama: The advocacy skills taught and demonstrated in Partners in Policymaking training were entirely new to me. Learning the history of how people with disabilities changed policies and laws provided a wonderful blueprint to follow. I now know how to effectively advocate and was able to practice these new skills with my other cohorts and elected officials. The other PIPA members have become friends and allies as we forge ahead to help family members and others with disabilities to be respected and included in our society.

GOAL FOUR

Alabamians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and others will receive education and training resulting in improved access to healthcare services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families that addresses their needs and choices and enhances their quality of life.

Highlights of Efforts Supporting the Health Priority Area (Goal Four) in Fiscal Year 2022:

- > Over 200 first responders were trained in FY22, including 12 entire agencies or departments
- > Campaign on Trafficking of Persons with Developmental Disabilities began in January 2022 (National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month) and included facts sheets, ads for digital distribution to all newspapers across the state, social media ads, a landing page with accessibility adjustments and language choice, digital brochures, English and Spanish videos with closed captions, presentations, and other resources
- > Over 500 professionals were educated or trained on trafficking of people with I/DD including law enforcement officers, counselors, social workers, and nurses via conferences or other training events
- > 48 hotels were trained on sensory awareness, 192 sensory kits provided to tourism industry partners, 53 families participated in a hotel practice stay, and 27 partnering hotels have Tourism ALL-a-Bama discounted rooms rates for families resulting in persons with I/DD and their families having trained options in Alabama to experience inclusive hotel experiences making travel less stressful and providing needed respite
- > Webinar series created for clinicians that includes topics such as spina bifida and cerebral palsy; transition conference conducted that addressed topics such as medical guardianship; and production of an Emergency Wallet Card for individuals with I/DD
- > Workshops conducted for caregivers of persons with I/DD on Talking with Your Kids About Sexuality and Preventing Abuse
- > Mini-booklet (Partnerships to Protect Self-Advocates) developed that encompasses the most relevant and recent statistics regarding the abuse rates of persons with I/DD, common myths, and how the community can get involved
- > Examples of Collaborators
 - Interaction Advisory Group, Exceptional Foundation of East Alabama, Fowler Davis LLC, United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, University of Alabama at Birmingham STEP Program, and Coastal Family Partners



- > Examples of Comments or Success Stories
 - UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley Tourism
ALL-a-Bama: The most beneficial insight we gained from participation with Tourism ALL-A-Bama was a greater knowledge of our community. We, as a hotelier, became more sensitive to the needs of families affected by autism, allowed our staff to better identify with each other, and helped us to gain even more humanity... which is never a bad thing.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

COUNCIL MEMBER APPLICATION

As noted earlier, the Council continued to encourage individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to complete an application to become a member of the Council. The application is available on the Council website and can be translated into multiple languages. Alternate formats are available upon request. To learn more, visit <https://www.acdd.org/council-member-application/>

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council held hybrid quarterly meetings via Zoom in 2022 to facilitate accessibility. To learn more about attending a Council meeting, contact our office at 334-242-3976 or darryle.powell@mh.alabama.gov.

CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT FUND APPLICATION

The Council also continued to provide awareness about its Consumer Involvement Fund (CIF), which can support individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members with participating in educational events. The CIF application is also available on the Council website and can be translated into multiple languages. Alternate formats are available upon request. To learn more, visit <https://www.acdd.org/funding/>

ACDD NEWSLETTER OR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to join our email list to receive the ACDD newsletter and other updates, then contact our office at 334-242-3976 or darryle.powell@mh.alabama.gov.

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.



Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities

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