



## **About the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities**

### **Mission**

We are dedicated to dignity, full rights of citizenship, cultural diversity, equal opportunities and full participation for all NH citizens with developmental disabilities. The Council carries out its mission through education, advocacy and the funding of innovative projects that make a difference in the lives of NH citizens with developmental disabilities. Most of our work is accomplished through collaboration with other groups and organizations that have a similar vision of community inclusion and integration for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in NH.

### **DD ACT**

The Council was created through Federal legislation known as the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act).

The New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 100% federally funded agency that supports public policies and initiatives that remove barriers and promote opportunities in all areas of life for people with developmental disabilities.

We are a minimum allotment State and our allotments are based on the congressionally approved Federal budget. (Our current Notice of Award is in your packets). Our grant allotment allows for a two-year project period, in which we can obligate our funds and do our work, and a third year to liquidate any obligated funds during that period. This is why we typically carry funds forward.

### **Council Membership**

The Council has at least 21 members. By law, 60% of our membership must be individuals with developmental disabilities and/or parents or guardians of individuals with developmental disabilities. They are all volunteers. There are also mandated agency seats including, the Bureau of Developmental Services, DOE Vocational Rehabilitation, DOE Special Education, the Institute on Disability at UNH, the Disability Rights Center-NH, the Department of Elderly and Adult Services, the Private Provider Network (service providers), and New Hampshire Family Voices.

Members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.

### **Five year plan**

The Council is charged with identifying the most pressing needs in the developmental disabilities community and then developing a State Plan every five years to establish specific goals, objectives and strategies to address those needs.

The Council regularly collaborates on, and distributes small grants for projects, trainings, and conferences that address goals identified in the State Plan. In addition, the Council provides small grants to individuals and families impacted by disabilities, which support personal educational and employment needs, as well as having the capacity to provide larger grants for “demonstration” projects or activities as described in the DD Act.