

**Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
State Plan Goals & Objectives 2007-11**

GOAL 1 [Area of Emphasis Quality Assurance]

**People with developmental disabilities and
their families have information necessary
to advocate to get their needs met.**

Objectives:

1. Support the production of written and other media materials as well as training opportunities that provide accessible, easily understood information on how the service delivery system works, including funding; eligibility; and available resources, services and supports.
2. Collaborate with other organizations to create an inventory of the continuum of resources, programs, services and supports available locally and state-wide, and identify gaps that need to be addressed.
3. Identify and promote a model for independent information, support and advocacy -- by and for people with developmental disabilities and families throughout the state -- to be able to navigate service systems.
4. Advocate for and address barriers to a transparent application, eligibility and review process for developmental services throughout one's lifespan.
5. Promote alternative options to address consumer concerns, including an independent state-level ombudsperson for developmental services.

GOAL 2 [Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance]

People with developmental disabilities and their families will be actively engaged in activities that bring them into the heart of Vermont's communities.

Objectives:

1. Provide funding to support and strengthen a state organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. Support the creation of a family membership organization with a focus on information, resources and advocacy across the life span.
3. Support leadership training opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and family members.
4. Expand participation of self-advocates and families in cross-disability coalitions.
5. Increase the number of self-advocates and families involved as advocates at the local and state level.
6. Identify and support initiatives to promote positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities at the local and state-wide level.
7. Support creative initiatives that bring together people with and without disabilities in their communities.

GOAL 3 [Area of Emphasis: Community Supports]

People with developmental disabilities and their families will have open and fair access to a range of supports, services, resources and opportunities based on the needs they identify.

Objectives:

1. Identify the population of people with developmental disabilities and their families who have unmet needs due to the current state definition and system of care plan, the reasons why, and assess their needs.
2. Support opportunities to expand the level of expertise of a range of professionals and direct support staff to be able to deliver high quality service coordination, specialized services and other resources and supports.
3. Identify barriers to delivery of resources, supports and services with the flexibility and range of options that match the needs voiced by people with developmental disabilities and their families, and support models to address them.
4. Address the policy, practice and funding barriers to a definition of developmental disability that is based on skills of daily living rather than labels.
5. Build advocacy support by identifying and addressing the barriers to adequate funding to support people with developmental disabilities and their families across the life span.

GOAL 4 [Area of Emphasis: Education]

Students in high school will have the supports they need for a smooth transition to life in the heart of their communities.

Objectives:

1. Support opportunities to develop and extend state-wide the most effective approaches to transitioning students from education to community life.
2. Identify and address barriers to consistent state-wide access to transition services, supports, and programs for high school students.
3. Advocate for systems, policies, priorities, and funding that promotes necessary supports for all students with developmental disabilities to transition successfully to community life.

GOAL 5 [Area of Emphasis Transportation]

People will have increased options for transportation services for work, school, medical, social, recreation and other personal needs.

Objectives:

1. Identify barriers and support solutions to increase transportation access, including alternative transportation models and incentives for public and private transportation providers.
2. Increase the number of regions with trained consumer advocacy teams effecting policy change through active engagement in the local and regional transportation planning process.
3. Provide people with developmental disabilities and family members with the tools needed to access and advocate for transportation services they need.
4. By 2011 expand transportation options and availability that serve the needs of Vermonters with developmental disabilities.

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