

Goals and Objectives

Revised August 12, 2018



Goal 1: VTDDC will reduce barriers to competitive employment, inclusive education, and effective health care services for people with developmental disabilities in at least two (2) underserved rural Vermont communities characterized by significant economic poverty.

Objective 1.1

- In collaboration with partner organizations, bring health outcomes for people with developmental disabilities closer to those of people without developmental disabilities, especially in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.

Objective 1.2

- Promote the use of available programs for competitive employment, education, and healthcare for Vermonters with developmental disabilities especially those living in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.

Objective 1.3

- Support initiatives that position Vermont as a leader in developing and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities and innovative approaches to job training for people with developmental disabilities, especially those living in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.

Objective 1.4

- Promote peer-to-peer training and support -- including supported decision making and independent options counseling -- as a highly valued part of person-and-family-centered care planning for people with developmental disabilities and their family members, especially those living in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.

Objective 1.5

- Support families advocating for best practices in special education services for their child, including improving access to legal services, in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.

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Goal 2: VTDDC will nurture and support a powerful movement of self-advocates and family members prepared to advocate for policies, programs, and funding that realize the vision of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 USC 15,001 et seq (2000)].

Objective 2.1

- Identify and collect information about Vermonters who have a developmental disability, including those who meet the federal definition of “developmental disability” [42 U.S. Code §15002(8)] but who do not meet the State of Vermont definition of “developmental disability” for the purposes of receiving home- and community-based services (HCBS) [18 V.S.A. §8722(2)].

Objective 2.2

- In collaboration with VTDDC’s Network Partners – Disability Rights Vermont and the UVM Center for Disability and Community Inclusion – and other advocacy groups, conduct multiple leadership training opportunities where self-advocates and family members come together to learn how to model and advocate for inclusion, self-determination, productivity, and independence.

Objective 2.3

- Engage self-advocates and family members through the dissemination of information and alerts; through soliciting their input about the issues impacting their lives; and through assisting them in practicing advocacy skills, including at the local and regional level.

Objective 2.4

- Build a repository of stories from self-advocates and family members in multiple formats (audio, video, or written) that can be used as advocacy and training tools.

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GOAL 3: VTDDC will vigorously seek changes in Vermont’s many service systems so that Vermonters with developmental disabilities – including those who are currently not identified as having a developmental disability under Vermont law [18 V.S.A. §8722(2)] – and their family members have greater and more equitable access to supports that foster the four values in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000: Community inclusion, self-determination, productivity, and independence.

Objective 3.1

- Through a public awareness campaign, disseminate information widely about the prevalence, accomplishments, stories, and needs of the estimated 86,000 Vermonters with developmental disabilities, including those who do not qualify for home- and community-based services (HCBS) through the state Developmental Services System of Care.

Objective 3.2

- Advocate that the Developmental Services System of Care place greater emphasis on pro-actively supporting individuals rather than reacting to crises, expand the percentage of individuals eligible to receive home- and community-based services (HCBS), and receive adequate resources to provide high quality support.

Objective 3.3

- Promote access to existing care coordination services for Vermonters with developmental disabilities through provider training, appropriate accommodations, and targeted outreach.

Objective 3.4

- Strengthen VTDDC’s capacity for cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and, through participation in Vermont’s Community of Practice for CLC, advocate that all disability-related services be welcoming and accessible to diverse groups of Vermonters.

Objective 3.5

- Advocate to expand family support funding, including funding for respite.