

***The Mission of VTDDC
is to help build connections
and supports that bring people
with developmental disabilities
and their families into the heart
of Vermont communities.***



We Believe...

***In communities where all people
have a "voice" and are heard with
respect ;***

***In safe communities where
all people have equal value;***

***In communities that are friendly
and support equality and
fulfilling relationships;***

***With opportunities, people
grow and share their dreams
and abilities; and***

***That the humanity we share
is more important than
our different abilities.***

For more information about

VTDDC's Mission,
Public Policy Priorities,
and Projects contact us at

802-241-2612
888-317-2006 toll free
vtddc@ahs.state.vt.us

Visit us on the Web
www.ddc.vermont.gov



VTDDC

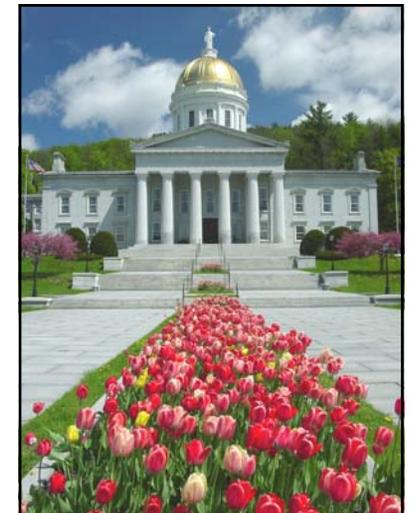
103 South Main Street
One North, Suite 117
Waterbury, VT 05671- 0206



And funded by



**VERMONT
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
COUNCIL**



**2011
Public Policy
Priorities**

About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members.

VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employment.

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2006. 179 people from around the state participated in a survey about what needed to happen and many attended forums held with community partners. The Priorities are embedded in VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2007-2011) that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.



Priority 1

PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Provide the supports Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to live with dignity as a vital part of our communities.

- Keep the promise made to people and families when Brandon Training School closed to provide the individualized supports people need to work, live and thrive
- Maintain job & community supports that also help family members and support staff stay working and contributing to Vermont's economy
- Expand flexible supports and increase options so people get what they need.
- Stem the erosion of Vermont's system of care, and require full and complete analysis of the impact of cuts on the lives of people

Priority 2

End waiting lists of Vermonters in need of developmental services

- Protect people who meet priorities from being put on new waiting lists
- Support eligible Vermonters with significant developmental disabilities who are not being served because of the limited priorities of the System of Care Plan
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing service and support needs of applicants and those on waiting lists

Priority 3

Students with Individual Education Plans need stable developmental service supports through the transition years from high school to independence

- Develop a predictable funding system for students so transition teams can plan ahead
- Address the needs of students with functional developmental disabilities
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing support needs of students with IEP's in transition years, including those with functional developmental disabilities

Priority 4

Vermont needs an independent information, referral and assistance source for people with disabilities and family members

- Support a specialized link that ensures people with developmental disabilities and their families get unbiased information on how to get started & navigate complicated systems

Priority 5

People with developmental disabilities need transportation options to be part of community life

- Develop a stable system for funding public transportation so that people have transportation options for work, school, medical, social, recreation & other needs