

Goals and Objectives

With Year 1 Activities and Investments



Goal 1, Empowering People

All Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their family caregivers are empowered to make personally meaningful and culturally appropriate choices about their services, education, employment, guardianship status, healthcare, living situation, and relationships.

Objective 1.1, Leadership Development

The VTDDC will support self-advocates and family members to become leaders in the disability rights movement.

In Year 1, the Council will...

- Continue to plan and support the annual Vermont Leadership Training Series.
- Host an annual Summer Summit for graduates of the Leadership Series
- Support peers to teach self-advocates about leadership and advocacy.

Objective 1.2, Support for Self-Advocacy

The VTDDC will support the long-term sustainability of the self-advocacy movement in Vermont.

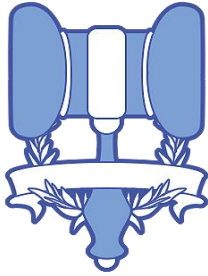
In Year 1, through a grant to Green Mountain Self-Advocates, the Council will...

- Provide grant support to a statewide self-advocacy organization to add new local groups as needed, conduct board training, host at least one Youth Summit, and reach out to culturally diverse communities.
- Provide a sponsorship to support GMSA's statewide conference, "Voices and Choices."



Objective 1.3, Guardianship

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will promote a range of alternatives to full guardianship, including supported decision-making.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Train and sustain the work of 4 Youth Ambassadors who are prepared to talk with peers about alternatives to full guardianship.
- Identify policy barriers to supported decision making and other alternatives to guardianship.
- Coordinate technical assistance and create plans to address policy barriers, including potentially standing up legislative recognition of supported decision-making.
- Develop and implement a marketing campaign to promote supported decision making and other alternatives to guardianship.
- Providing information sessions for targeted audiences including family caregivers, medical professionals, developmental disabilities services agency staff, and school special education and transition services teams.

Objective 1.4, Peer Support

The VTDDC will ensure that trained peers are available to support those who need help with their Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and other supports.

In Year 1, the Council will....

- Support GMSA in sponsoring an advanced-level training for peers who are preparing to become paid peer support providers
- Continue to fund Vermont parents to attend introductory and advanced training through the Council for Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA).
- Convene the Vermont graduates of COPAA.

Objective 1.5, Family Caregivers of Adults

The Council will support and connect family caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Initiate the development of an independent, curated website designed to provide comprehensive information about adult services. Create an editorial board for the website.
- Establish a safe, online means for family caregivers of adults to contact one another.

Goal 2, Gaps in Services



Working with community partners, the VTDDC will address three (3) gaps in critical services for people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

Objective 2.1, ADA Accessibility

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will advocate that spaces and programs used by the public for recreation, health, and wellness are fully accessible in Vermont.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Build relationships with key stakeholders and experts familiar with ADA issues and universal design.
- Issue a request for proposals for SEEDS grants, seeking small, innovative projects that expand access to recreation and healthcare facilities.
- Through an appropriation from the Centers for Disease Control, stand up the Competent Care for Kids program for the vaccination of children with disabilities that is designed to reduce the stress associated with the experience.

Objective 2.2, Housing

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will develop and promote housing options for adults with developmental disabilities. These living options must be affordable, foster independence, ensure necessary support, and assist in the development of friendships and other community connections.

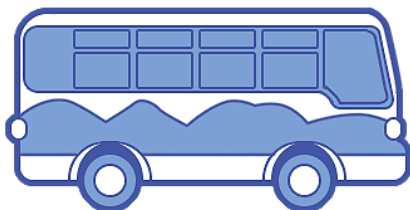


In Year 1, the Council will...

- Build relationships with key stakeholders and experts familiar with housing issues and design options. Learn about housing options for people with I/DD in other states.
- Support family members advocating for alternatives to the limited housing options for adults with I/DD.
- Advocate that a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for HCBS Enhancements and other funds be used to develop and pilot alternative housing models.

Objective 2.3, Transportation

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will develop and promote more affordable, convenient, and flexible transportation options for people with developmental disabilities.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Build relationships with key stakeholders and experts familiar with transportation issues. Learn about transportation options for people with disabilities in other states.
- Monitor the Transportation Advisory Committee for Elders and People with Disabilities and legislative committees of jurisdiction.
- Advocate that a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for HCBS Enhancement be used to support expanded transportation for people using HCBS.



GOAL 3, Addressing the Needs of an Underserved Group

VTDDC will advocate that individuals with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs have equitable access to, and appropriate supports to realize, opportunities for employment, social engagement, and personal development.

Objective 3.1, Customized Employment

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will develop and promote customized, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Create and convene a community of practice focused on customized, integrated employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for individuals with complex disabilities.
- Issue a request for proposals for SEEDS grants, seeking small, innovative projects that support customized employment through training, outreach, or a pilot project.

Objective 3.2, Adult Services

Working with community partners, the VTDDC will develop and promote opportunities for adults with complex disabilities and/or substantial support needs to increase social engagement and independence.

In Year 1, the Council will...

- Create and convene a community of practice focused on improving adult services for people with complex disabilities.
- Issue a request for proposals for SEEDS grants, seeking small, innovative projects that support the skill development of adults with complex disabilities.



Goal 4, Systems Change

The VTDDC will support policies and practices that promote self-determination, full community inclusion, and equitable access to high quality services and supports, including special education.

Objective 4.1, Raise Awareness

The VTDDC will conduct outreach and public awareness campaigns that change perceptions about the abilities and contributions of people with developmental and other disabilities.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- In collaboration with CDCI, identify 1-5 questions to add to the UVM Rural Studies annual survey.
- Add 5 Story Portraits/year.
- Host art show at disability conferences.
- Hosts at least 1 Storytelling Evening.
- Support self-advocates speak to at least 3 professional or para-professional groups. (See Obj. 1.2).

Objective 4.2, Ongoing Policy Advocacy

The VTDDC will monitor state and federal legislation and policy, educating decision-makers and building strategic partnerships as needed. Working through its Policy Committee, the VTDDC will be able to address issue that were not foreseen or that have grown to be a priority.

In Year 1, the Council will...

- Work with the Policy Committee to identify and vet potential platform items for a December vote by Council.
- Meet with legislators, testify, and support people to testify, as needed.
- Visit Congressional Delegation at least 1x/year with members.
- Attend NACDD policy-related calls.
- Monitor 7-10 committees; provide public comment.
- With Community Partners, plan an impactful event for Disability Awareness Day that promotes the broad agenda of the disability community



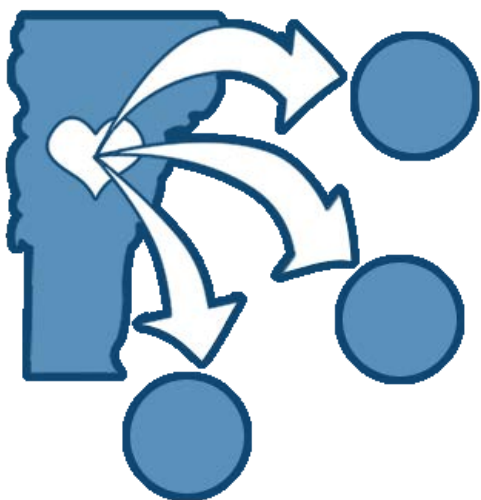
- Support member & others to testify live or via video, sharing their lived experience as a person with a disability or a family member.
- Create short videos for legislators showing members and others from the disability community weighing in on specific legislation.

Objective 4.3, System of Care

The VTDDC will advocate that Vermont adequately fund Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Vermont will have stable, strong, and equitable systems that protect the right to person-centered planning, emphasize prevention over crisis care, and provide individualized, flexible supports rather than adhering to rigid service categories.

In Year 1, the Council will...

- Educate lawmakers about the need for adequate base funding and regular, predictable COLAs for DDS.
- Advocate strongly that VT comply with the CMS requirements regarding conflicts of interest in case management.
- Advocate that individuals and their family caregivers have adequate, individualized budgets that they can easily track and manage.
- Work with Members to outline a position regarding paying parents as providers.
- Advocate that the State add additional funding priorities to its DD System of Care.
- Monitor Vermont's transition to independent assessment using the SIS-A.
- Advocate for new housing models.
- Advocate for crisis prevention and wellness support.
- Seek funding to support regional communities of practice (CoP) centered on improving cultural and linguistic competence in the delivery of developmental disabilities services.
- Align HCBS services across programs.



Objective 4.4, Direct Support Workforce

The VTDDC will advocate for the professionalization and stabilization of the direct care workforce.



In Year 1, the Council will...

- Advocate that the State strengthen training requirements for direct care workers, including home providers, and the State budget support that training.
- Advocate annually that the VT State budget adequately compensate direct care workers.
- Co-sponsor Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Day (Sept. 2022)