

**Governor's Planning Council
on Developmental Disabilities**

Minnesota Department of Administration

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**INFORMATION ABOUT THE MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S PLANNING COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act was originally passed by the U.S. Congress in 1970, and its most recent amendment was in 1990 (P.L. 101-496).

The overall purpose of the Act is to assist states to:

1. Advocate for public policy change and community acceptance of all people with developmental disabilities and their families so that such persons receive the services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities necessary to enable such persons to achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community;
2. Promote the inclusion of all persons with developmental disabilities, including persons with the most severe disabilities in community life;
3. Promote the interdependent activity of all persons with developmental disabilities, including persons with the most severe disabilities; and
4. Recognize the contribution of all persons with developmental disabilities as such persons who share their talents at home, school, and work, and in recreation and leisure time.

In Minnesota, three separate programs are funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act: 1) the Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities; 2) the Institute on Community Integration, a University Affiliated Program, at the University of Minnesota; and 3) Legal Advocacy Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (referred to in the Act as the Protection and Advocacy System).

WHAT ARE "DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES"?

Abbreviated Definition: "Developmental disabilities" are severe, chronic mental, and/or physical impairments which occur at an early age; are likely to continue indefinitely; and have a pervasive effect on an individual's functional abilities and need for services.

Federal Definition: The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1990 defines a developmental disability as:

a severe, chronic disability of a persons which--

- is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
- is likely to continue indefinitely;
- results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and
- reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated; except that such term, when applied to infants and young children means individuals from birth to age 5, inclusive, who have substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental disabilities if services are not provided. [Section 4; Underscored added in 1990]

WHAT IS THE DESIGNATED STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY?

The Governor of Minnesota has designated the Minnesota Department of Administration as the agency responsible for providing administrative services for the Minnesota Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL?

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities is responsible for supervising the development of a three-year state plan describing the quality, extent, and scope of needed services being provided or to be provided to persons with developmental disabilities; to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the state plan; and to review state service plans for persons with developmental disabilities.

WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL?

The Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities is a planning body composed of 27 members including persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council members are appointed by the Governor, and represent principal state and local agencies and private organizations concerned with services for people with developmental disabilities. At least half of the members are persons with a developmental disabilities or a representative of someone who has a developmental disability.

OPEN MEETINGS:

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of every even-numbered month. The public is encouraged to attend. Please call for specific times, dates, and locations.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

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