

The Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities [DD Council Member Guide](#) explains how councils can work their 5-year State Plan in the list below.

A list of 'tools' (strategies) that DD Councils **can use** to implement their state plan goals:

- Research and data gathering.
- Policy papers and reports about issues that impact people with developmental disabilities.
- Education (information) to the media and public.
- Advice to the Governor, legislature and agencies on policy that impacts people with developmental disabilities.
- Testimony in committee about how legislation will impact people with disabilities.
- Help self-advocates and families to learn about and connect with the political process.
- Grants/Demonstration of approaches to services and supports.
- Input from the community.

Below are 'tools' (strategies) a Council **cannot use**:

- Protest Politics
- Lawsuits
- Lobbying

[The DD Act](#) (114 STAT. 1703 B-L) says that DD councils can use the following activities to implement their State Plan:

(B) **OUTREACH.**—The Council may support and conduct outreach activities to identify individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who otherwise might not come to the attention of the Council and assist and enable the individuals and families to obtain services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, including access to special adaptation of generic community services or specialized services.

(C) **TRAINING.**—The Council may support and conduct training for persons who are individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and personnel (including professionals, paraprofessionals, students, volunteers, and other community members) to enable such persons to obtain access to, or to provide, community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance, including special adaptation of generic community services or specialized services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. To the extent that the Council supports or conducts training activities under this subparagraph, such activities shall contribute to the achievement of the purpose of this subtitle.

(D) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Council may support and conduct technical assistance activities to assist public and private entities to contribute to the achievement of the purpose of this subtitle.

E) **SUPPORTING AND EDUCATING COMMUNITIES.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to assist neighborhoods and communities to respond positively to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families—

- (i) by encouraging local networks to provide informal and formal supports;
- (ii) through education; and
- (iii) by enabling neighborhoods and communities to offer such individuals and their families access to and use of services, resources, and opportunities.

**(F) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to promote interagency collaboration and coordination to better serve, support, assist, or advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

**(G) COORDINATION WITH RELATED COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to enhance coordination of services with—

(i) other councils, entities, or committees, authorized by Federal or State law, concerning individuals with disabilities (such as the State interagency coordinating council established under subtitle C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), the State Rehabilitation Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council established under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the State mental health planning council established under subtitle B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-1 et seq.), and the activities authorized under section 101 or 102 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3011, VerDate 11-MAY-200014:46 Nov 16, 2000Jkt 089139PO 00402Frm 00029Fmt 6580Sfmt 6581E:\PUBLAW\PUBL402.106apps13PsN: PUBL402 PUBLIC LAW 106-402—OCT. 30, 2000 114 STAT. 1705 3012), and entities carrying out other similar councils, entities, or committees);

(ii) parent training and information centers under part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) and other entities carrying out federally funded projects that assist parents of children with disabilities; and

(iii) other groups interested in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities to benefit individuals with disabilities.

**(H) BARRIER ELIMINATION, SYSTEMS DESIGN AND REDESIGN.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to eliminate barriers to access and use of community services by individuals with developmental disabilities, enhance systems design and redesign, and enhance citizen participation to address issues identified in the State plan.

**(I) COALITION DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to educate the public about the capabilities, preferences, and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and to develop and support coalitions that

support the policy agenda of the Council, including training in self-advocacy, education of policymakers, and citizen leadership skills.

(J) **INFORMING POLICYMAKERS.**—The Council may support and conduct activities to provide information to policymakers by supporting and conducting studies and analyses, gathering information, and developing and disseminating model policies and procedures, information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The Council may provide the information directly to Federal, State, and local policymakers, including Congress, the Federal executive branch, the Governors, State legislatures, and State agencies, in order to increase the ability of such policymakers to offer opportunities and to enhance or adapt generic services to meet the needs of, or provide specialized services to, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

(K) **DEMONSTRATION OF NEW APPROACHES TO SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council may support and conduct, on a time-limited basis, activities to demonstrate new approaches to serving individuals with developmental disabilities that are a part of an overall strategy for systemic change. The strategy may involve the education of policymakers and the public about how to deliver effectively, to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, services, support, and assistance that contribute to the achievement of the purpose of this subtitle.

(ii) **SOURCES OF FUNDING.**—The Council may carry out this subparagraph by supporting and conducting demonstration activities through sources of funding other than funding provided under this subtitle, and by assisting entities conducting demonstration activities to develop strategies for securing funding from other sources.

(L) **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—The Council may support and conduct other advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities to promote the development of a coordinated, consumer- and family-centered, consumer- and family-directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that contribute to the achievement of the purpose of this subtitle.