



# PENNSYLVANIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

## Pennsylvania Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Need Your Help!

**The President's proposed budget for 2018 eliminates funding for all DD Councils and will result in us running out of funds for grants by September of 2019.** The PADDCC has positively affected the lives of Pennsylvanians with disabilities for over 40 years, serving not only as a funding source for innovative practices and services, but also for discovering solutions to problems through research and new developments that lead to systems change. ***This 100% federally funded program provides real benefits to PA citizens and communities.***

DD Councils were first authorized in 1970 as part of a bipartisan piece of legislation. Councils are catalysts, which serve to assure the participation of people with disabilities and their families in the design of services, supports and other forms of social change. The President's 2018 proposal to restructure and defund Councils would remove the voices of people with disabilities from the DD Act and the dynamic and innovative practices in which they have engaged for over 40 years.

### What Can You Do to Help?

Please contact your elected representatives, both federal and state, to provide them with education about the unique work of Councils and how you or your organization may have been assisted by our past efforts. A summary of PADDCC's accomplishments can be found inside.

You should stress that your communication is ***educational rather than lobbying.***

- ✓ Senator Casey may be reached at 202-224-6324
- ✓ Senator Toomey may be reached at (202) 224-4254
- ✓ To find your Congressional representative, enter your zip code at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- ✓ To find your PA State Representative enter your address at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>

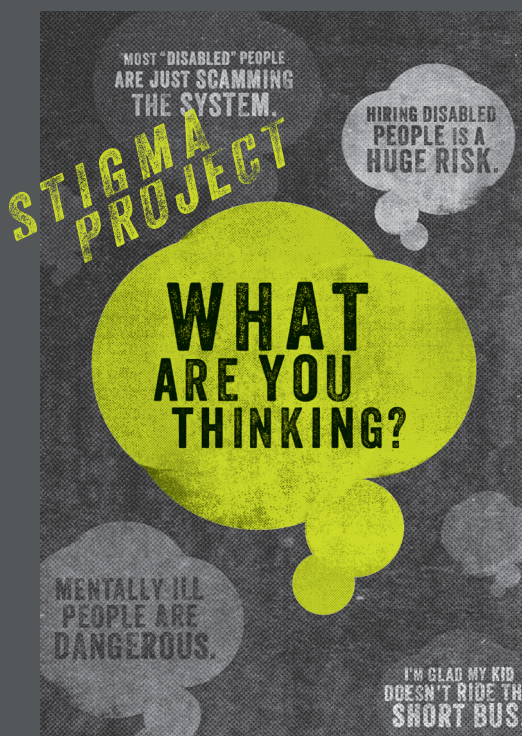


The Council engages with our partners from around the Commonwealth, including people with disabilities, family members, policymakers, educators, health care providers, employers, and our partners under the Developmental Disabilities Act (Protection and Advocacy, and the University Centers), to create positive social and systemic change for citizens with disabilities.

We **protect direct services**, such as developing the use of the Shared Ride system, which has provided over 1,000,000 rides.



And we **prompt systems change** such as our recent campaign to tackle the stigma faced by people with disabilities.



### Long-term impacts of the Council include:

- ✓ The creation of the Special Needs Adoption System, which became the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN)
- ✓ The Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) system providing systems and personal supports for 6,000 people per year
- ✓ Organizing and education leading to the passage of Act 150, which authorizes Pennsylvania's Attendant Care System
- ✓ The creation of the Pennsylvania Business Leadership Network based on the national BLN model
- ✓ The creation of the Pennsylvania Shared Ride System, which provides transportation to people with disabilities across the state.

Some of our work is direct and easy to understand, while other work is more complex and needs a more systemic approach. We have used different approaches over the years. Two of the approaches we have developed over the last few years include **Generic Social Change** and an understanding of **Intersectionality** which has greatly advanced our thought in these areas.

### PADDC Vision Statement

We envision a Commonwealth comprised of **inclusive communities** where all people with disabilities are **valued and thrive**.

**Following are some of the systemic and demonstration activities with which we have been engaged over the last ten years. Without continued funding, Pennsylvania citizens and communities will lose critical supports.**

- ✓ Employer Focused Employment
- ✓ Engaging Community Colleges
- ✓ Generic Technology
- ✓ Veteran's Support
- ✓ Stigma
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Voting and Civic Engagement
- ✓ School to Prison Pipeline
- ✓ Peer Support Models
- ✓ Housing Advocacy and Demonstration
- ✓ Self Advocacy Support
- ✓ Fitness and Health
- ✓ Managed Care
- ✓ Cross Disability Efforts
- ✓ School Culture
- ✓ Rural Transportation Initiatives
- ✓ Policy Information Exchange

## Generic Social Change

Generic Social Change is a systems change model, growing out of our Vision, Mission and Values, beginning with the premise that people should live, work and benefit in generic social situations and adds to this the concept that sometimes, at the interface between disability and community, it is the generic community and not the person with the disability that needs to change.

Rather than building special models for special people, we hold that the generic systems should change their ways to accommodate all of our society's members.

## Intersectionality

We have realized that "doing disability" is about changing the beliefs and attitudes of the general public and embracing a commitment to diversity. When it comes to people who are "disability different," we realize that we have much to learn from other people who are marginalized on the grounds of racial, ethnic and sexual differences, and have developed a commitment to making partnerships with other marginalized groups.

This has been a learning exercise for us and has led to new relationships amongst our membership and grantees.

## Additional impacts of the Council over the past year:

- ✓ More than 50 accessibility site surveys were conducted at recreational, health care, governmental, and community facilities in PA. These data helped to *leverage almost \$1 million to complete accessibility improvements* to the properties.
- ✓ *Trainings were held* in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for *emergency managers, people with disabilities, and family members on Emergency Preparedness*.
- ✓ 37 human resources professionals representing 22 companies participated in *peer to peer mentoring sessions on creating a more disability friendly workplace*.
- ✓ More than *\$2 million was leveraged to create affordable, accessible housing*.
- ✓ *Polling place accessibility surveys* were conducted in over *200 sites across 11 counties* using the ADA Act Guidelines Accessibility tool.
- ✓ *1,143 individuals* (339 with disabilities) who are involved in grassroots disability groups *received technical assistance and training* so that they can make positive change in their communities.
- ✓ *3,967 students and teachers* in Pennsylvania have been *trained in leadership, advocacy and self-determination*.

## PADDCC Value Statements — *Guiding Principles, What We Stand For, What We Believe*

**Empowerment** – We engage in activities which meaningfully involve people with disabilities from start to finish.

**Inclusion** – We prefer activities to be integrated with people without disabilities in regular and generic settings.

**Systems Change** – We promote activities that make wide reaching changes through broad social and cultural systems.

**Cross-disability** – We fund activities in common areas such as housing, health, employment, and community inclusion.

**Natural Part of the Human Condition** – We believe disability is a natural part of the human condition – we see disability as a difference, not a deficit.

**Intersectionality** – We believe that the skills involved in understanding disability are related to the skills of embracing all forms of diversity.

**Generic Social Change** – We work to change generic systems for all people in ways that do not relate solely to disability.

### PADDCC Mission Statement

The Council engages in advocacy, systems change and capacity building for people with developmental disabilities and their families in order to:

- ✓ Support people with disabilities in taking control of their own lives
- ✓ Ensure access to goods, services, and supports
- ✓ Build inclusive communities
- ✓ Pursue a cross-disability agenda
- ✓ Change negative societal attitudes towards people with disabilities

In so doing we will bring about benefits to individuals with disabilities other than developmental disabilities and, indeed, to all people.



**PADDCC**  
PA Developmental Disabilities Council

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