PADDC

Outlooks

FALL 2026

2027-2031 STATE PLAN

PADDC Goals and Objectives

PADDC is required by law to create a five year state plan outlining how it will fulfill its responsibilities under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. The following goals and objectives were informed by public input and were approved by Council and the Administration for Community Living.

GOAL 1: Advocacy

Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities and their families will be more effective leaders and advocate for systems changes on behalf of themselves and others.

Objective 1: Each year an increasing number of advocates with developmental disabilities will build leadership skills to advocate for themselves and participate in cross-disability and culturally diverse coalitions.

Objective 2: Each year, using peer-to-peer training, we will reach more Pennsylvanians to advance the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3: By 2031, PADDC will strengthen a statewide network of self-advocate led groups that will organize for collective action toward sustainable system change.

GOAL 2: Information Sharing

Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities, family members, and professionals will have access to more information and resources that will enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities.

Objective 1: By 2031, the number of reliable, easy-to-access, and easy-to-read resources created and shared with individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and professionals will increase.

Objective 2: Annually, at least 10 resources, and / or authentic stories will be shared to promote understanding and awareness of disabilities issues relevant to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3: By 2031, outreach to individuals with developmental disabilities, families, advocacy groups, and allies throughout Pennsylvania will increase grassroots connections, collaborations, and cross-disability partnerships.

Objective 4: When emerging issues arise or an emergency is declared in the commonwealth, the council will respond by providing information and assistance to support individuals with developmental disabilities as appropriate.

2027-2031 STATE PLAN
PADDC Goals and Objectives *(continued)*

GOAL 3: Services and Supports

PADDC will advocate for and support changes to service systems and community resources, so they will be more responsive, accessible, and flexible for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective 1: Annually, PADDC will identify and advocate for at least three ways to reduce barriers to accessing services, improve quality of care, and increase coordination of services and supports across the lifespan.

Objective 2: Annually, individuals with developmental disabilities and families will have at least four opportunities to provide input and perspective on system change and policy improvements.

Objective 3: By 2031, more individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to individualized person-centered services to live independently and participate in and contribute to their community.

FUNDING
Opportunities Available NOW

Leadership Empowerment and Advocacy Fund Grant

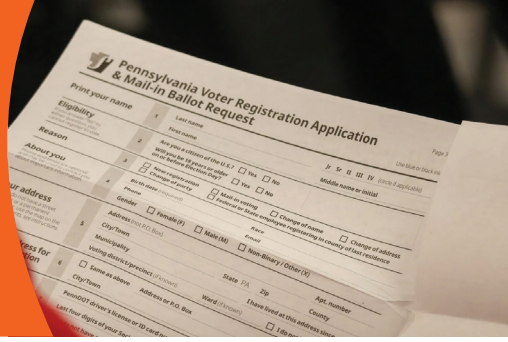
The Council is issuing a **Request for Applications** for one project to coordinate and finance both routine and intermittent meetings, gatherings, round table discussions, conferences, etc., on local, state, and national disability-related issues and solutions. This work will support Pennsylvanians to come together to engage in advocacy and system change, provide educational opportunities, and ensure accessibility and inclusion.

The planned allocation is $100,000 per year for up to 5 years, with a $33,333 required match per year. **Letters of intent are due on November 15, 2026 and applications are due on February 1, 2027, by 2 p.m.** There will be a pre-application conference webinar on Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Visit www.paddc.org/grant-funding-opportunities/rfp-book for full information, webinar link, and instructions for how to apply for this opportunity.

Our **Community Grants Program** brings together people, with and without disabilities, in local community initiatives to influence change and improve the lives of everyone in the community. These grants are intended to support short term projects of between 6-18 months and applicants can request up to $20,000. If awarded, a 25 percent local match will be required. For example, if a grant of $20,000 is awarded, the local match would be $6,667. Visit paddc.org/grant-funding-opportunities/available-projectsgrants for full details about deadlines and instructions on this applying for this opportunity.

ELECTION RESOURCES
Make Sure Your Vote Counts!



Voting Resources from Disability Rights PA

Visit disabilityrightspa.org/election2025 or scan the QR code to access the following voting resources. Some resources are also available in Spanish.

- VIDEO: Let's Talk About Pennsylvania's Mail-In Ballots
- Factsheet: Voting by People with Disabilities – Ensuring Participation for All Citizens
- The Disability Vote Matters! Voter I.D. Requirements and Election Day Issues
- Disability Voting Issues – Access, Assistance, and Accommodations
- The Disability Vote Matters! Exercising Your Right to Vote
- How to Vote in Pennsylvania
- Voting as a Resident of a Nursing Facility, Personal Care Home, or Other Long Term Care Facility
- Assistance for Pennsylvania Voters with Disabilities: Requesting, Obtaining and Returning a Mail-in or Absentee Ballot
- Assistance for Pennsylvania Voters with Disabilities: Ballot Marking
- Accessibility Tips for Voting
- Remote Ballot Marking Tool: Accessible Option Over Paper Ballot
- Mail-In Voting Checklist: General Election Dates
- How to Register to Vote and Check Your Voter Registration Status
- Voting in Person? Check to See if Your Polling Place is Accessible!
- Designated Agents: What Are They and Do I Need One?



The **Pennsylvania Department of State** has a dedicated site (pa.gov/agencies/vote) where you can: register to vote, check you voter registration status, update your registration, find your polling place, contact your election officials, apply for an absentee ballot, and download a PA Voter Toolkit.



If you have any **problem voting on election day**, contact **Disability Rights Pennsylvania** at (800) 692-7443 or intake@disabilityrightspa.org OR call the **Pennsylvania Voter Hotline** at 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772) for immediate assistance.

*The photos in this story were provided by **Vision for Equality**, a PADDC grantee, who held face-to-face workshops on voting. Attendees learned how to use a voting machine and discovered accessibility options. They were also able to access information on registering to vote.*

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PENNSYLVANIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $3,095,416.00 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. Council efforts are those of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.