

We Believe...

In communities where all people have a “voice” and are heard with respect.

In safe communities where all people have equal value.

In communities that are friendly and support equality and fulfilling relationships.

With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams, abilities; and

That the humanity we share is more important than our different abilities.

The Mission of VTDDC is to help build connections and supports that bring people with developmental disabilities and their families into the  heart of Vermont communities.

For more information about VTDDC's projects and becoming a member, contact us at:

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VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



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2013 Public Policy Priorities

Member 
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Public Policy Priorities

About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members.

VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employment.

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2011. 283 people from across VT participated in a survey about what needed to happen and over 150 attended forums held around the state.



The Priorities are embedded in **VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2012-2016)** that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.

PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Assure that Vermonters with developmental disabilities have individualized supports they need to work, live and thrive

- Live up to Vermont's Developmental Disabilities Act and promises made when Brandon Training School closed to end segregation and provide supports in the community.
- Stem the trend towards segregated congregate day services and contracted wrap services.
- Restore and expand flexible supports and options for children, adults and families.
- Require full and complete analysis of the impact of changes in funding priorities and cuts on the lives of people, including families, support staff and home providers. Restore funding to peer and family organizations for cost-effective support.

End waiting lists of Vermonters in need of developmental services

- Provide a transparent application and decision process for services.
- Require a state-wide analysis of service and support needs of people on current waiting lists and those receiving minimal supports, including Flexible Family Funding.

People with developmental disabilities need quality supports and well trained staff to be treated with dignity and respect and have opportunities to be part of community life

- Restore state level quality assurance staff so there are reviews that are not crisis driven.
- Restore state-wide oversight of training and develop direct service standards so people are assured quality person directed services no matter where they live or who the provider is.

Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to be able to work for more hours and more pay in jobs they choose

- Make employment a funding priority for all, not just graduates.
- Restore job development positions and invest in other customized resources.
- Restore cuts to individual job supports to increase the rate and hours people are working.

Vermont needs an independent information, referral and assistance source for people with disabilities and family members

- Support a specialized link that ensures people with developmental disabilities and their families get unbiased information on how to get started & navigate complicated systems.