

## Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

# Current Projects

October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014

**Multi-year Projects** fulfill long term state plan goals and can be renewed each year up to 3 years.



Information, Referral & Assistance (IRA) provides a welcoming and accessible service to get information and support in navigating complex service systems. Its focus is primarily adults with developmental disabilities and their family caregivers. The website is expanding with informational videos made by self-advocates linked to their partner Green Mountain Self-Advocates' website. It is moving forward to identify critical service gaps expressed by the individuals and families that call.

Check it out at [www.vermontfamilynetwork.org](http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org)

*Vermont Family Network was awarded \$40,000*



Self Advocacy Project (SAP) is focused on strengthening Vermont's statewide organization and its network of over 20 local self-advocacy groups. In addition to technical assistance to groups, the project provides leadership training, supports participation in cross-disability coalitions, and fosters public awareness. Find lots of resources and about events at [www.gmsavt.org](http://www.gmsavt.org)

*Green Mountain Self advocates was awarded \$60,000*



Advocacy Response Network (ARN) provides accessible information and analysis with a rapid response time to support people with disabilities and their family members to advocate with legislators about laws, policies, and practices that impact their lives. Through weekly calendars, reports, and its website, the project rallies individuals to have a voice in the State House. Browse the website and sign-up for alerts at [www.vcdr.org](http://www.vcdr.org)

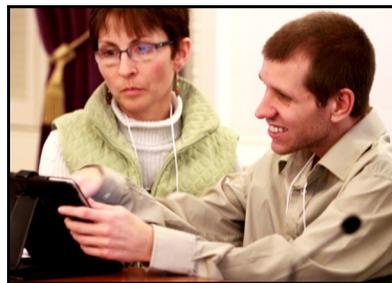
*Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights was awarded \$30,000*

**Advocacy in Action Projects** plan and launch advocacy events that bring people together with policy makers to tell them about what they need, including transportation and supports.



We Can supports youth and adults with developmental disabilities to be respected by policymakers as credible experts on what Vermonters need. It provides a range of accessible materials (such as talking points, alerts, and YouTube videos), hosts events regionally and at the State House, and supports people to connect with their legislators on key issues.

*Green Mountain Self-Advocates was awarded \$27,000*



Disability Awareness Day gave lawmakers the opportunity to hear about life in the community for people with disabilities. Through testimony self-advocates and allies weighed the impacts of funding rescissions and narrowing eligibility criteria.

Chester Finn, a self-advocate and public speaker, was keynote for 300 participants at the State House.

*Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights was awarded \$10,000*



Systems Advocacy Project (DLP) provides legal analysis and support as part of systems advocacy partnership efforts aimed at ensuring that Vermont's developmental services are sustainable, of high quality, community-based and following principles of individualized supports and self-determination.

*Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. was awarded \$16,500*



**disABILITY Media Awareness Projects** tell people's stories in their own words, to show the joys and challenges of being a part of community life.



Living Connections is a photo exhibit that shows the strong relationships that grow between persons with disabilities and the people who support them. The portraits tell the stories of ten pairs of Vermonters of all ages from across the state. It is currently displayed at Green Mountain Self Advocates. Check it out and let us know about places to show it.

*Grantee: Mary Claire Carroll and Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights*



Breaking Barriers are short films that profile the lives of three Vermonters who are accepted and respected members of their communities. The video clips are frequently broadcast on Vermont Public Television and public access channels across the state.

*Grantee: Mad River Media*

**Media projects available on the web at:**

<http://ddc.vermont.gov/outreach>

Outreach Project increases public awareness about the strengths and needs of Vermonters with developmental disabilities through VTDDC's website, online newsletter, and Facebook page; radio appearances; and hosting displays at events.



Public Awareness through Publications increases public awareness of Person-First language, and works to welcome people with developmental disabilities into the heart of communities by distributing publications like **Choosing Words with Dignity**, and **Get on Board and Make a Difference**.

**In-House Council Activities** are organized and directed by VTDDC.

VTDDC Informing Policymakers educates agency and legislative leaders about the situation and priorities of Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their families through the voices of staff, members, and allies. Activities have included creating fact sheets on key issues; luncheons with legislators; presenting testimony; and enlisting nine organizations to support passage of Act 140, the first update of Vermont's Developmental Disabilities Act in 20 years.



Executive Committee Fund provided small grants to 63 individuals and family members to support their attendance at trainings and conferences, and to organizations for activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Small projects include:

- *Two double-features* ,celebrating the *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Closing Brandon Training School* by highlighting autobiographical films starring two self-advocates. The showings took place in Burlington and at Castleton State College.
- BEAMS Wilderness , an inclusive afterschool program that hosted enriching activities for middle-schoolers with and without disabilities. It included clubs in archery, fishing, and wilderness.
- 9P Worldwide Conference, that gathered families from around the world to Central Vermont to share information, support each other, and increase public awareness.

***Contact us for more information:***

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