



Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report



Our Mission

To create systemic change in Kentucky that empowers individuals to achieve full citizenship and inclusion in the community through education, capacity building, and advocacy.

Our Purpose

The Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) was established in October 1971 to assist in fulfilling the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act. Appointed by Governors in every state and U.S. territory, members consist of people with developmental disabilities, their family members, disability advocates, and state agency representatives. Councils are mandated to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that support people with DD/ID to live in homes and communities in which they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens while pursuing meaningful and productive lives. The CCDD represents the interests of all Kentuckians who have developmental disabilities (DD) and their families. CCDD funds projects and engages in outreach activities of advocacy and leadership development. Through a Five Year Plan with goals and objectives, CCDD operates to improve service delivery and supports and help with innovative programs to emerge. To implement the state plan, CCDD works with organizations to provide outreach, training, technical assistance, educate communities, build coalitions and partnerships, engage in interagency collaborations, eliminate barriers, develop coalitions, increase citizen partnership, and inform lawmakers.

Our Network

CCDD is a component of the Kentucky Developmental Disabilities Network (DD Network). The DD Network initiate projects and initiatives to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Each state has a DD Network comprised of a DD Council, a Protection and Advocacy agency, and a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). In Kentucky, the network includes Kentucky Protection & Advocacy and The Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky.



CCDD Council Members 2025

Our Council Members

The CCDD is composed of 26 members. Sixteen members are self-advocates with developmental disabilities or family members of self-advocates. The other 10 are representatives of principal state agencies who fund or provide services to people with developmental disabilities.

Governor Appointed

Amy Smith	Parent
Andrea Strassburg	Self-Advocate
Casey Allen	Parent
Danny Slaton	Parent
Darrell Mattingly	Self-Advocate
Heather McConnell	Parent
Jacob Cruz	Self-Advocate
Jaz Brown	Self-Advocate
Kelly Jones	Parent
Leigh Van Hooser	Parent
Mack Thompson	Self-Advocate
Meagan Brannon	Parent
Nick Carpenter	Self-Advocate
Regina Watts	Family Member
Ryan Guyder	Self-Advocate
Sharon Raymond	Parent

State Agency Representatives

Barb Locker	Behavioral Health Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities
Blaire Handshoe	Department of Medicaid
Camille Collins	Protection & Advocacy
Chad Hunt	Office of Blind Services
David Allgood	Non-Profit Representative
Donna Deal	Department of Public Health
Dr. Jason Wheatley	Department of Education
Kristen Beach	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Laura Butler	Human Development Institute
Scott Collins	Department for Aging and Independent Living



2025 CCDD Day at the Capitol, Frankfort, KY

Our Work

The DD Act requires a state Council to focus on:

Advocacy - active support of policies & practices that promote systems change efforts & other activities that further advance self-determination & inclusion in all aspects of community living.

Capacity Building - activities that expand and/or improve the ability of individuals with DD, families, supports, services and/or systems to promote, support & enhance self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion in community life.

Systemic Change - a sustainable, transferable and replicable change in some aspect of service or support availability, design or delivery that promotes positive or meaningful outcomes for individuals with DD & their families.

State Plan Goals

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy

By 2026, people with developmental disabilities and family members will increase their knowledge of disability issues and develop stronger advocacy skills.

Goal 2: Building Capacity

By 2026, the capacity of communities and systems to include people with DD will be increased so that people will have opportunities for greater independence and integration.

Goal 3: Systems Change

By the end of 2026, systems that provide services and supports for individuals with DD will be improved so that people with DD and their families can live and thrive in their communities.

Areas of Emphasis

Employment

Housing

Self-Advocacy

Formal/ Informal Community Supports

Strategies Used

Outreach

Training

Supporting/Educating Communities

Technical Assistance

Barrier Elimination

Systems Design and Redesign

Coalition Development and Citizen

Participation

Informing Policymakers

Our In House Projects



The goal of Kentucky Partners in Policymaking (KPIP) is to accomplish productive partnerships between the people needing and utilizing services and those who form public policy. PIP was founded on the belief that the most significant and lasting public policy decisions came from the efforts of those most affected by them, working together with public officials and policy experts. In 2025 7 graduates completed the course. 100% said that they were empowered to work in their communities to make change for people who have disabilities.



Exceptional Family Kentucky is the only magazine dedicated to disability issues in Kentucky. It is published twice per year and distributed statewide. 10,000 copies are printed in English and 2,000 in Spanish. The resource guide boasts over 450 listings. The magazine is offered online in English and Spanish as well. Over 95% of survey participants agree that this magazine helps them increase their advocacy efforts.



The Council's Public Policy goal is to increase participation and outreach by Council members and stakeholders to impact and affect legislative issues including ongoing and emergent issues related to the DD population of Kentucky. Council members also attended the National Disability Policy Seminar. The Council's Policy Coordinator held weekly calls that reviewed legislative issues affecting the disability community. These calls were open to the public. In 2025 over 300 people participated in CCDD policy events.

ADA Site Compliance

Staff with ADA certifications visit and complete reviews for local employment and service offices. They consulted with stakeholders on how to best make physical changes to improve access. This project has exceeded expectations. Staff completed three times the required number of reviews. Reviews were completed and recommendations made for 11 local employment service offices.

Our Grantees

It's Never Too Early, Employment Initiative



This project updates and provides training on employment using Employment Checklist tools and related resources. These resources were initially developed through a Kentucky family/ advocacy workgroup as part of a Partnerships in Employment statewide systems change project. As part of this project, the early childhood checklist, targeting children aged three - five and their families, is reviewed by families, staff and consultants with lived disability experience. The updated resources became the central element of trainings offered to families and child care providers around the state, including Visually Impaired Preschool Services in Jefferson County, Memorial Childcare in Pulaski County, and Easterseals Redwood in northern Kentucky. A powerful component of this effort is the committed partnership of Child Care Aware Kentucky which provides support and learning opportunities for roughly 1,650 licensed child care providers across the state. This provided an immediate and trusted training entity to help us amplify the work statewide. The training evaluations indicated changed behavior by 55 individuals based on answers to the question "What is one change you will make to incorporate work related play into settings where you interact with children with disabilities?"

The Independence Seekers Project



ISP is led by and for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, especially those who are in Medicaid funded programs. The majority of their Leadership Council has been institutionalized, under guardianship, and/or received Medicaid services. Through CCDD, ISP implemented the Advocacy & Sexuality Initiative. Skills taught included interpersonal relationships and boundaries along with etiquette around dating and sexuality. Louisville School of Medicine was involved in creating curriculum. 1300 people with DD/ID reported increasing their advocacy work as a result of this project, smashing their goal of 50 people.



Rural Community Access Project

Build Inclusion, Starfire, and Lifeworks Group are teaming up for the Rural Community Access project, which serves to strengthen connections and networks for people with IDD in their own communities and neighborhoods through person-centered projects. These creative projects were tailored to each person and empowered families and neighbors of people with disabilities to take action to create connections and networks beyond the label of disability. A stipend was attached to each project, and a monthly on-line learning series was led by Starfire on varied best practice topics. Past projects have consistently shown evidence of 4 or more new, unpaid community connections being made for the person with IDD. In 2025, surveys showed that 164

people (or 99%) of project participants were satisfied with this project. Additionally, this project has been able to leverage significant grant funding outside of CCDD funding (\$24,000).

Housing Solutions

Build Inclusion, Starfire, and Lifeworks Group also hold this grant. Currently there are few housing options available to individuals with IDD in Kentucky. Housing supports are written into the Supported Community Living (SCL) and a handful of other Medicaid Waivers. These services are generally agency driven. Of the 85,000+ recognized Kentuckians with disabilities, only a small percentage hold these waivers. We believe that more innovative solutions should be explored by taking a person-centered approach to the needs of people facing barriers to housing options. We work off best practice for the individuals seeking to live in a home of their own to have complete Control of Threshold. Through individualized person-centered development, community education, employment, inter-dependent supports, and barrier elimination, grant partners worked in and outside of the systems to illuminate creative solutions in housing options for Kentuckians with IDD. The number of people (100) that came to the first in-person sessions and have participated in follow-up conversations already meets half of the targeted rate for the year.



Housing Futures

A lack of accessible, affordable housing in Kentucky has been a long-standing barrier to independent living for people with DD. This project began by developing resources around housing planning and choice, expanding the housing options for individuals with DD. Identifying these options required assessing financial resources, accessibility, and usability. Accessibility assessment included determinations on environmental accessibility of the home, in addition to transportation options, critical services, and community resources. Usability further assessed whether the individual living in the home could effectively use the space as it was intended, including appliances, control of the environment, and other features that contribute to a good life. The Housing Futures (HF) project then worked to build and expand housing options in consideration of affordability, accessibility, and usability. 27 people with DD/ID and 45 others participated in this project designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives. This project is through the Human Development Institute at UK.



Rooted and Rising

Rooted & Rising focuses on understanding the needs and gaps of mental health services for people with developmental disabilities in Appalachian counties in Kentucky. Rooted & Rising enhanced mental health services through training, community outreach, and partnerships. Its work has been guided by people with lived experience to ensure the voices of rural Kentuckians with developmental disabilities lead the work in making mental health services easier to access. A project website has been created and is regularly updated. Visit <https://hdi.uky.edu/rooted/>.



Our Partners

Blind Services with OVR
Build Inclusion
Center for Accessible Living
Department for Aging & Independent Living
Department for Medicaid Services
Department of Education
Department of Public Health
HB 144 Commission
Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky
IDD Technical Advisory Committee
Independence Seekers
Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism
Kentucky Appalachian Rural Rehabilitation Network
Kentucky Assistive Technology Network
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kentucky Works
KY Special Parent Involvement Network
Lifeworks
National Federation of the Blind Kentucky
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Starfire Council
State Independent Living Council

Kentucky's DD Network Meeting 2025

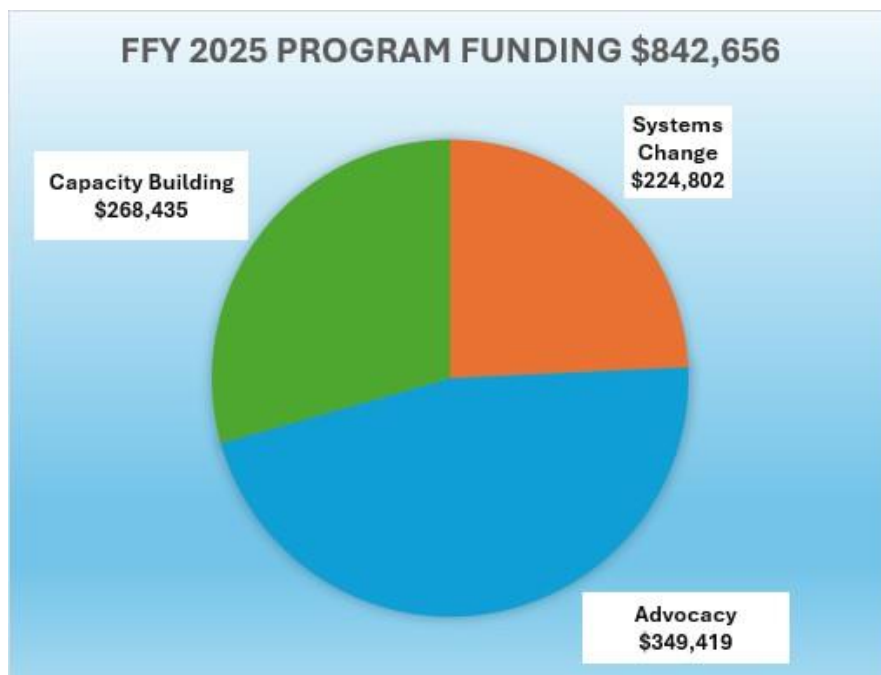


Our Financials

The CCDD receives a federal formula grant from the Administration on Community Living under Title I, Subtitle B of Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. All funds are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principle and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards under 45 CFR Part 75.

CCDD funds are used primarily for two purposes: (1) planning and (2) implementation of innovative strategies to address the needs of Kentuckians with developmental disabilities. and objectives of the plan.

The chart below identifies the amount of funding spent in the program year toward each goal in the plan and funds utilized for Council member engagement and support. Funds invested in Council meetings are part of the planning process, which is one of the Council's primary purposes. Federal law prohibits the use of these funds for direct services to individuals with developmental disabilities.



The Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities 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 \$1,195,270 with 84 percent funded by ACL/HHS and \$192,300 and 16 percent funded by non-federal-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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Fiscal Manager
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Our Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kyccdd>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kyccdd/>

X: <https://twitter.com/KYCCDD>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/commonwealth-council-on-developmental-disabilities>



The Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. CCDD does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.