



**Commonwealth Council on
Developmental Disabilities**

**Advocacy Training
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Public Policy Co-Chairs**

CCDD's Mission



Create **systemic change** in KY that empowers individuals to achieve full citizenship & **inclusion in the community** through **education, capacity building and advocacy.**

UCEDDs

University Centers
for Excellence
in Developmental
Disabilities



Provide interdisciplinary
pre-service preparation



Perform community
services and training



Conduct research,
evaluations, and
information dissemination



DD Council

Developmental
Disabilities Council



Understanding system
barriers and changing
them through initiatives



Working with stakeholders
to achieve enduring change



Empowering advocates



P & As

Protection & Advocacy



Monitor and investigate conditions in
facilities that care for people with disabilities



Provide legal representation to people
with disabilities



Ensure equal access to life in the community

DD Act - Activities



Systemic change activities - 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.

Advocacy Activities - 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 - activities (e.g. training & technical assistance) 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.

What are we asking for?



Medicaid Services & Waivers:

- **Community Living and NOT in an institution**
- **Inclusion**
- **Employment**

Medicaid Provides funding for more than 20 Kentucky Programs



Medicaid Services & Waivers:

- **Medicaid Block Grant Funding / Per Capita Caps – ARE CUTS**
- **Federal authorities are discussing proposals to change Medicaid from a state dollar match program to a block grant model. Ultimately, this would reduce the overall funding provided to states and undermine the availability of Home and Community Based Services. We are concerned that the budget will be balanced at great costs to those who need services most.**

Vocational Rehabilitation:

- **Kentucky OVROFB are not receiving the total budget that they could.**
- **Fortunately, a relatively small amount of state funding could dramatically increase their ability to provide services. Approximately 78% of funding for OVR and OFB is provided by federal grants.**

Vocational Rehabilitation:

- **However, the actual amount of federal funding received is tied to the amount of “match” funding provided by the state.**
- **Kentucky OVR could access \$48,550,500 in Federal Funds. In order to draw that full amount, KY would need to provide \$13,000,000. Currently, KY has provided OVR with \$11,849,300 in state funds. An additional allocation of \$1,290,797 in state funds would enable OVR to access an additional \$8,000,000 in federal funds**

It starts with YOU!



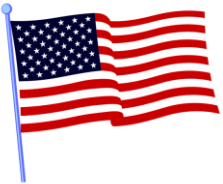
Meeting with your legislators

- **Introduce Yourself**
- **“I am your Constituent!”**
- **Tell your personal story (what services do you get? Still need?)**



Meeting with your legislators

- **Don't assume they know about your issues.**
- **I vote! My family votes! (and we vote on these issues).**



Remember to:

- **Be polite, be brief, be specific**
- **Offer to answer questions if asked**
- **If you don't know the answer, offer to get back with the information – Don't make things up!**

Get to know your legislator

- **Do they use:**
 - **Facebook?**
 - **Twitter?**
 - **What is their phone number?**
 - **Do they use email?**

Following up:

- **FOLLOW UP, FOLLOW UP!**
- **Be sure to send a Thank you note or card.**
- **Be sure to visit when they are at home - and often.**
- **Call/email them about your issues AND then see how they voted on it!**

Questions?

