



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



*Promoting Independence,
Self-Determination, Productivity, Integration &
Inclusion of People with Developmental Disabilities*

laddc.org



Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Purpose/Mission

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (LaDDC) strives to increase the independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), regardless of the severity of their disabilities, in all facets of their lives. This is accomplished through the Council's efforts in advocacy, capacity building and systems change across the state, all of which are driven by these guiding principles:

- Adults with I/DD should have the opportunity to make their own decisions, live in typical homes and communities and fully exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens.
- People with I/DD should have the opportunity and support needed to gain and maintain competitive, integrated employment.
- Children need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment to develop to their fullest potential.
- All students should have the opportunity to be educated in neighborhood schools with their sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors and have the family, school and community supports needed to effectively learn.

Fulfilling these principles will ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully integrated in welcoming communities and enjoy enriched social, family and community lives.



Advocacy and Public Policy

To make our vision a reality, people with disabilities and their family members must become advocates to promote public policy that truly serves the needs of citizens with disabilities and works for system change to overcome barriers to full inclusion in our society.

Relying on its core values, the Council develops policy statements and position papers to educate advocates on the issues being considered by policymakers. Whether self-advocate, parent, sibling or caregiver, the Council trains and prepares advocates to interact with legislators and use their own words to tell their powerful, personal stories.



You can help improve the policies and systems serving individuals with I/DD by joining one of ten LaCAN teams and participating in its advocacy efforts. LaCANs advocate for expanding service capacity and systems change to improve inclusive opportunities for people

with disabilities. LaCAN advocates are called into action to appeal to state agency officials, legislators or the Governor when needed during legislative sessions. The Council and LaCANs track legislation, provide public policy information, distribute action alerts and offer education and training for advocates promoting self-determination, independence and inclusion in all areas of community life.



Council and Committees

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has 28 members who are appointed by the Governor and 60 percent of its members are required to be people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities or family members. Other members include state legislators, top state agency officials and representatives of nonprofits and service providers.

The Council works on behalf of over 72,500 people with developmental disabilities across the state and has four committees to oversee the Council's Five Year Plan, including the:

- **Executive Committee** – takes immediate action to make policy and other recommendations to the full Council, and evaluates the performance of the Executive Director.
- **Self Determination/Community Inclusion Committee** – monitors plan activities in the areas of Community Supports and Advocacy and Leadership Development.
- **Education/Employment Committee** – monitors activities regarding Community Supports, Advocacy and Leadership Development.
- **Act 378 Sub-Committee** – oversees implementation of the Community and Family Support System.

In addition, Ad Hoc committees are appointed as needed to address specific issues and oversee specific Council initiatives.



Use your phone camera to scan the QR code and get involved with LaDDC!



Get Involved!

There are many opportunities to get involved with the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (LaDDC) and its initiatives. Become engaged in the issues, expand your understanding and knowledge and advocate for the many issues facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). To learn more, visit <https://laddc.org/get-involved/>

Apply to the Partners in Policymaking leadership training program or to serve on the Louisiana DD Council and become part of the team promoting independence, self-determination and inclusion of people with I/DD. [Download an application here.](#)

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