

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's mission is "To advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities."

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council's Purpose:

We are committed to advocating and promoting programs, practices and innovative initiatives that enhance the independence, productivity, inclusion, and self-determination of individuals with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life.



TRANSPORTATION



The Council helped teach policymakers the transportation needs of people with I/DD. As a result, the Governor appointed a transportation task force that included the Council and people with I/DD to develop recommendations.

The Council worked with the Florida Department of Transportation to help pay for and put into action a **Transportation Voucher Pilot** in Hillsborough County. This program is a successful example of a way to provide 24-hour access to transportation for people with I/DD.

The Council's Transportation Voucher Pilot Project resulted in:

27,813

trips for people with I/DD



\$556,260

cost savings over previous transportation options

EMPLOYMENT

The Council's Employment First efforts led to:

Nassau County



Became the first school district in Florida to become a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Vendor

The Council's 5-year employment goal is to achieve 25% growth in the number of people with I/DD who work in jobs at or above minimum wage.

Our greatest result in the area of employment was an 18% increase (27,036) in people with disabilities being helped in supported or competitive work.

124

improvements

Florida passes the Employment First Act!

Working with other partners, the Council was able to report 124 changes or improvements made to policies, procedures, rules, statutes, or practices related to employment during 2017.



Also in 2017, the Nassau County School District became a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Vendor. This was the first school district in Florida to reach this status, and it grew out of work with the local **Employment First** Collaborative Team supported by the Council's Employ Me 1st initiative. This allows Nassau County to increase their employment services.

ELEMENTARY THROUGH POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION



The Council worked with the US Department of Education to get an opinion on a policy so that technical colleges can receive money for **Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities**.

This successful outcome will have a positive effect on after-high-school education programs across Florida.

SELF-ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP

\$4.4

MILLION
increase to
provider rates



Florida Self-Advocates Network'D (Florida SAND), the state self-advocacy organization supported by the Council and led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, focused on 2 issues for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session: transportation and provider rates.

Their work contributed to the Governor creating a Transportation Disadvantaged Task Force and a \$4.4 million increase to provider rates for selected services.

96%

of the Council's
PIP grads built knowledge
in self-determination



94%

created a relationship
with a policymaker

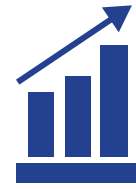
The **Partners in Policymaking (PIP)** program enjoyed great success in 2017:

- 26 graduates from the 2016 PIP class finished the required 6 sessions in 2017.
- 96% of graduates said they built knowledge in self-determination, disabilities systems, and teaching policymakers.
- 94% of graduates created a relationship with a policymaker to educate them on issues.
- 100% of graduates started a project for systems change.



The Council worked with Disability Rights Florida to create a **Project VOTE** Train-the-Trainer program. This helped increase the number of Project VOTE trainers who can help people learn how to vote.

12 self-advocates and 12 regional Disability Rights Florida staff were trained as co-trainers.



an increase of

\$3.4

MILLION

state dollars

and

The Council worked with the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) and over 100 self-advocates and families to connect with lawmakers at the **2017 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day**.

This effort resulted in an increase of \$3.4 million state dollars and 60% federal matching dollars for 350 people to access services and move off the APD Waitlist.

170 self-advocates and 24 family members participated in leadership and advocacy activities in 2017.

60%

federal
matching
dollars



170

self-advocates and

24

family members participated

SELF-ADVOCACY SYSTEMS CHANGE



Progress was made this year to change federal and/or state rules that lower income limits imposed on people with I/DD.

An advocate with cerebral palsy who works in the office of a state legislator needed to ask her employer to limit her salary to \$25,000 per year so she could keep important services funded with the Medicaid waiver. She worked with the Council to educate legislators on this issue and asked Florida lawmakers to raise the income limit to at least \$45,000 per year and provide the ability to earn a pension.

The Council is working to increase the income limit to

\$45,000

BROAD SYSTEMS CHANGE— COMPLETING WORK FROM 2016



During 2017, 2 of the Council's major 5-year employment projects ended. Both projects resulted in great outcomes.

Rural Routes to Employment

- This project included Community Action teams and training in Customized Employment. One part of this program, Discovery, is used by certified trainers to find out exactly what people with I/DD need. Discovery is now being funded by VR.
- Through Rural Routes to Employment, 78 trainers became certified and 58 people with I/DD got jobs.
- The project completed a Replication Guide that helps other counties create similar programs.

Benefits Planning and Asset Development

The Benefits Planning and Asset Development program resulted in updates to training materials and new state-wide trainers.

In 2017, Rural Routes to Employment:

- Served 17 counties
- Helped 58 people with I/DD get jobs
- Helped 78 trainers become certified

12
people with
I/DD were trained
to train other
leaders

Over
8,000
people have
access to zero
tolerance training

- The project created two new training tools: **The Changing Face of Benefits workbook and online module.**
- 68 people became trainers, and 31 people earned certificates of completion.
- Trainers trained a total of 454 people during the final year and within 6 months following the close of the project.

The Council funded **Project Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALT)**, in which 12 people with I/DD were trained to train others in this self-determination leadership training.

The Council created an **Abuse and Neglect Task Force** to help with issues related to neglect and abuse for people with I/DD.



- 422 new law enforcement recruits completed revised training.
- Over 8,000 people have access to the revised Zero Tolerance Training for caregivers.
- 54 people with I/DD were trained using the Awareness and Action program on abuse detection and prevention.



The **Lighting the Way** program created an online training module about guardianship options for secondary transition educators, as well as fact sheets in English and Spanish for educators, families/caregivers, and students.

The Council provided training and technical assistance to health care professionals and others to assist individuals with I/DD and their families to gain skills that ensure their health and safety via three major initiatives:

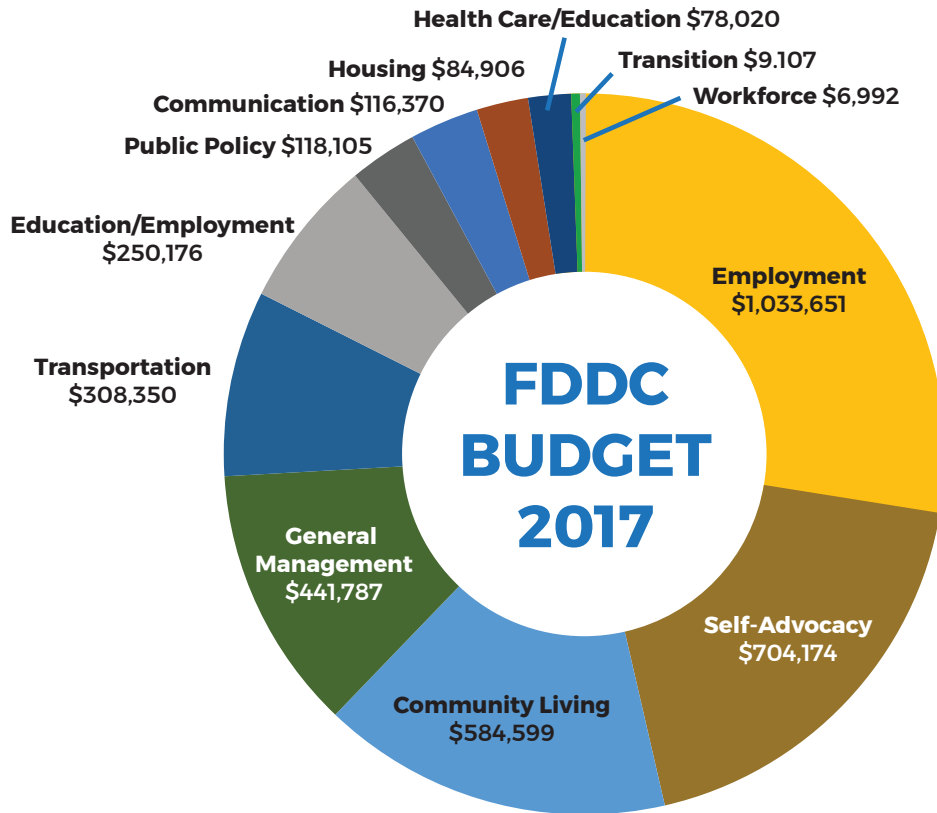
- The **Community Health and Wellness** program in Gainesville, which offers an inclusive fitness program, Fit for All, at a local gym
- **Improved Coordination of Medicaid State Plan and Community-Based Services**
- **Nurse Practitioner Training**



The Council addressed 3 emerging issues, and as a result:

1	The Help Me Grow base budget of \$1,808,957 was funded.
2	\$5 million in unspent federal funding was added to the budget and used by Early Steps for children's' services.
3	Education on restraint and seclusion led to proposed legislation changes in the House and Senate.

FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL BUDGET



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2981
(850) 488-4180 or (800) 580-7801
Fax: (850) 922-6702
admin@FDDC.org
www.FDDC.org