



State of the States
In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000

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In every state and territory, programs made possible by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) give individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families the power to help shape policies that affect them. DD Act programs lead important research and test new creative ways to provide services to people with DD. They work to bring the latest information and resources to those who can put it to the best use, including self-advocates, families, service providers, and policymakers. DD Act programs also investigate cases of abuse and may serve as legal advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDDs)

- Understand the needs of people with DD and their families
- Find solutions to challenges they face
- Do research, share knowledge, and create better services and supports

Projects of National Significance (PNS)

- Run special projects and research to improve the lives of people with DD
- The data PNS tracks helps guide the following:
 - Policy changes and legal decisions
 - Care and service planning
 - Other actions that affect people with DD

The State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils)

- Advocate for the needs and rights of people with DD
- Work to change systems that affect the lives of people with DD
- Help communities build skills and work together

State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As)

- Protect the rights of people with DD
- Offer legal help, advocacy, and education to support people
- Their goal is to make sure no disabled person is left out or goes without support