



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA

Who
We Are

**The Council works to make
Oklahoma a place where
people with developmental
disabilities can live, learn, work,
and play where they choose.**

Why Councils Exist.



Every state and territory has a DD Council— 56 total!



Created by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act—the “DD Act”



The DD Act helps put people with disabilities and families in leadership roles to help shape the systems that affect their lives.





3 Main Responsibilities of the Council

1. **Advocacy**

helping people speak up and helping leaders understand disability issues

2. **Systems Change**

improving how services and supports work across the state

3. **Capacity Building**

strengthening skills, leadership, and opportunities in communities



Who Leads the Council?

- At least 60% of our board members are people with developmental disabilities or family members!
- Lived experience guides our decisions.
- We work with agencies, organizations, and community partners

What We Do in Oklahoma

We work to improve opportunities for people with developmental disabilities by:



Youth
Leadership
Forum



Innovative projects
to improve services



Partners in
Policymaking



Work with partners to
improve education,
employment, health
care, and community
living



Self-Advocacy
Trainings





OKLAHOMA

PARTNERS

IN POLICYMAKING



Our DD Network Partners

Part of a national Developmental Disabilities Network, which in Oklahoma includes:



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

DD Council

systems change, advocacy, capacity building



CLL / UCEDD

research, training, and model programs



DISABILITY RIGHTS
— O K L A H O M A —

Protection & Advocacy (P&A)

legal rights and protection



Why does this matter to you?

- YOU are a part our mission.
- YOUR VOICE helps shape policies, programs, and expectations in Oklahoma.
- We invest in **self-advocates and families** because they are the experts.

How you can get involved:

- Attend Council meetings
- Apply for Council membership
- Join projects or advisory groups
- Share your lived experience with policymakers
- Give us your comments on our drafted state plan!
- Stay connected with us



OUR COMMITMENT

We Work to:

Create Opportunitites

Spark Community
Change

Educate Decision-
Makers

Empower
Self-Advocates

Self-Advocates
and families
belong here —your
leadership is
powerful.





Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

www.oklahoma.gov/ddco

(405) 521-4984

Facebook and Twitter: @okddc

- ❑ **Partners in Policymaking (PIP):** 7-weekend disability advocacy training for parents, adults with disabilities, and professionals, promoting independence, productivity, and inclusion of Oklahomans with disabilities. [Email Bradley.Mays@okdhs.org for an application and more information.](mailto:Bradley.Mays@okdhs.org)
- ❑ **Youth Leadership Forum (YLF):** 5-day advocacy & leadership camp held every June for students with disabilities in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Includes activities and speakers promoting lifelong advocacy skills. [Email Bradley.Mays@okdhs.org for an application and more information.](mailto:Bradley.Mays@okdhs.org)
- ❑ **Self-Advocacy Trainings** are 1–3-hour trainings led by adults with intellectual, and developmental disabilities (I/DD), sharing their expertise and experiences as they work to teach self-advocates to learn how to advocate. [Email Morgan.Davis@okdhs.org for more information.](mailto:Morgan.Davis@okdhs.org)
- ❑ **Trainings** on topics such as person-centered thinking tools, LifeCourse principles, disability etiquette, respectful communication and advocacy skills. Staff are available to speak at your agency, business, school or community organization and can create trainings based on your needs. [Email Jenifer.Randle@okdhs.org.](mailto:Jenifer.Randle@okdhs.org)
- ❑ **Program Funding:** DDCO partners with organizations to provide funding for new projects in OK. Previous projects include Oklahoma Transition Institute, Early Access Autism Screenings, SibShops, Sooner SUCCESS activities, TechNow, and Dream Night at the Zoo. [Email Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org.](mailto:Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org)