



Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
1706 E. Elm Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
573-751-8611/800-500-7878/573-526-2755 (FAX)
Sharon Williams, Chairperson *Vicky Davidson, Executive Director*

www.moddcouncil.org

Eric R. Greitens,
Governor

Outreach

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council's Position:

Because thousands of Missourians with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not receiving or are ineligible for services from the state Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri must increase its outreach and education to help people with disabilities and their families learn about, and access, needed and appropriate supports and services. Missouri must develop effective means of communicating with people with disabilities and their families, and educate them about state, local, and natural supports that can help them lead full, valued, independent, and community-included lives.

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council's Reasons:

According to a recent study, there are an estimated 95,497 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Missouri. Of these, an estimated 36% receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Thus, there are over 61,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are not receiving – due to ineligibility or lack of awareness – services specifically designed and funded to help them lead independent, community-included lives.¹

However, there are agencies, county boards, and nonprofit organizations that can provide similar services to people who are ineligible for or otherwise not receiving services from DDD. For example, Vocational Rehabilitation² can provide medical and mental health care, counseling, assessments, and other supports when they are related to a person's ability to work.³ Centers for Independent Living⁴ can provide information and support to help people live and thrive in the community,⁵ as can various community organizations. County Boards for Developmental Disabilities and related nonprofit organizations can provide case management and other services.⁶ In addition, with proper information and education, family members, friends, and other natural supports can provide assistance that empowers and enables people with disabilities to lead full, community-included lives.⁷ Research has found that people with disabilities who live in the community using such "supported living" services have better life outcomes including increased independence, well-being, and community participation⁸ and decreased risk of abuse or neglect.⁹

The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council's Recommendations:

- As a state and society, we must acknowledge that people with disabilities have the right to receive appropriate supports and services empowering them to lead full, valued, independent, and community-included lives.
- Missouri should increase education and outreach to people with disabilities and their families - using accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate technology and other means - to inform them of the availability of supports and services including those offered by DDD, agencies, county boards, and nonprofit organizations.
- Missouri should increase education and outreach to people with disabilities and their families – using accessible technology and other culturally and linguistically appropriate means - about ways to identify, direct, and provide natural supports that can help them lead full, community-included lives.
- Missouri agencies and providers should employ people with disabilities as "peer mentors" to help others learn about and navigate the disability service system and access appropriate supports and services.
- DDD and other Missouri agencies and organizations providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should cross-train their employees to be aware of supports provided by others so that, if people are ineligible for one agency's services, they will be referred to another that provides similar supports.
- Missouri agencies and organizations should ensure that their websites meet all applicable accessibility standards including the Americans with Disabilities Act,¹⁰ Section 508,¹¹ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,¹² and the Missouri Information Technology Accessibility Standards.¹³
- Missouri agencies and organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should collaborate with schools to help students in special education develop and implement transition plans that include the supports they need to live full, valued, independent, and community-included lives.

References

1. Jackson, L., McVeigh, T., Rust, R., Miller, C. (2015). Aging with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Trends and best practices. UMKC, Institute for Human Development. Available at: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/manuals/docs/agingwithidd.pdf>
2. See, <https://dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/vocational-rehabilitation>
3. See, 34 C.F.R. § 361.48
4. See, <http://www.mosilc.org/mo-centers-db/>
5. See, <http://www.ncil.org/about/aboutil/>
6. See, <http://macdds.org/> (links to County Boards and Related Private Agencies)
7. See, <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/naturalsupports.html>
8. Lakin, K. C., & Stancliffe, R.J. (2007). Residential supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*, 13, 151-159 (cited in Jackson, *et al*, *supra* note 1).
9. Gardner, J. F., & Carran, D. T. (2005). Attainment of personal outcomes by people with developmental disabilities. *Mental Retardation*, 43, 157-174 (cited in Jackson, *et al*, *supra* note 1).
10. See, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq*.
11. See, e.g., <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards>; Friedman, M.G., & Bryen, D.N. (2007). Web accessibility design recommendations for people with cognitive disabilities. *Technology and Disability*, 19(4), 205-212.
12. See, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/title-vi-1964-civil-rights-act>
13. See, <https://oa.mo.gov/itsd/it-governance/enterprise-architecture/it-accessibility-standards>

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