MISSION

According to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 103-230), each state Developmental Disabilities Council is to promote through systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy activities, the development of a consumer and family-centered, comprehensive systems, and a coordinated array of culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance designed to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with developmental disabilities.

DEFINITION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

A "developmental disability" is defined by the Developmental Disabilities Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-230) as:

1. . . a severe, chronic disability of an individual 5 years of age or older that—

    'A) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;

    'B) is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;

    'C) is likely to continue indefinitely;

    'D) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (i) self-care, (ii) receptive and expressive language,
(iii) learning, (iv) mobility, (v) self-direction, (vi) capacity for independent living, and (vii) economic self-sufficiency; and

'(E) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, supports, or other assistance that is of lifelong or extended duration and is individually planned and coordinated,

except that such term, when applied to infants and young children means individuals from birth to age 5, inclusive, who have substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental disabilities if services are not provided. " [Section 102(6)]
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