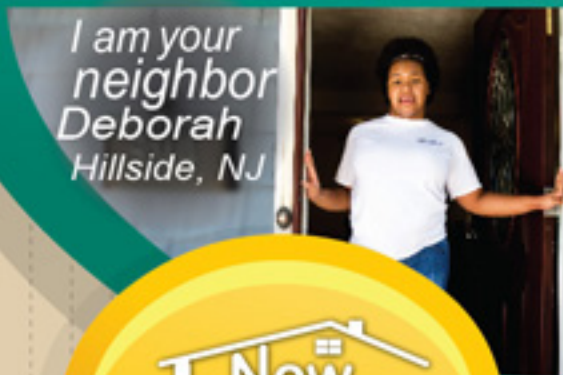


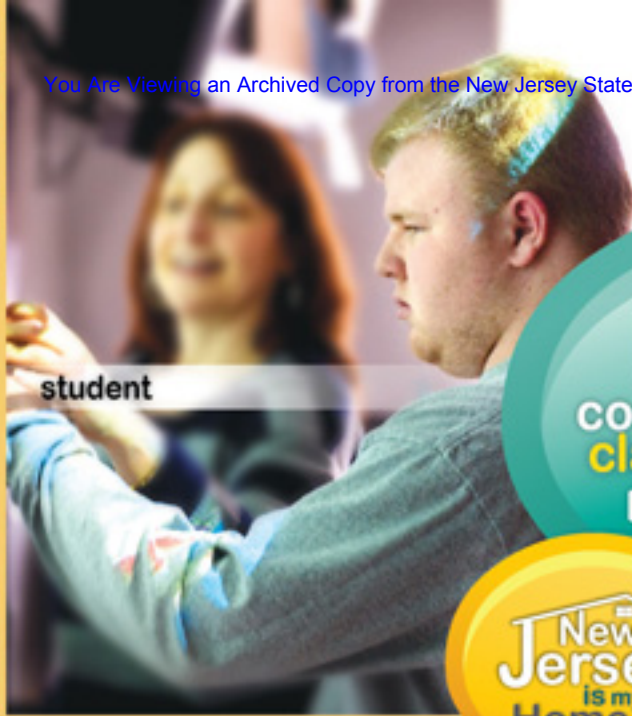
ANNUAL REPORT

2012





co-worker



student

I am your
 co-worker family member
 classmate customer
 neighbor friend
 teammate



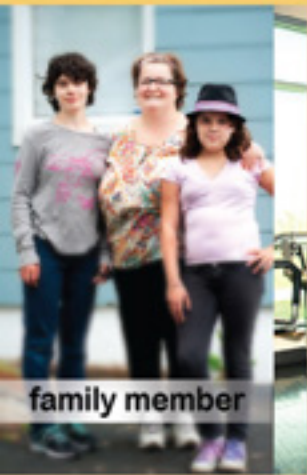
friend



employee



neighbor



family member



teammate



constituent



apprentice



fellow citizen



Elaine Buchsbaum
Council Chair

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities' 2012 federal fiscal year report. This past year saw many changes take place in public policy and support systems across New Jersey. The Division of Developmental Disabilities began transferring services for young people and their families to the Department of Children and Families; Governor Chris Christie declared ours an *Employment First* state; and, most importantly, a bi-partisan taskforce ruled in favor of closing two of the Garden State's seven developmental centers.

As the parents of an adult with developmental disabilities, my husband and I know very well that the most appropriate setting for him is to live amongst his friends, family, and neighbors. Our son, Matthew, has always been part of our local community. Despite having a moderate intellectual disability, Autism, and a seizure disorder, Matt has had a number of part-time jobs while maintaining an active role as a member of our local synagogue. Additionally, he has a full social life, regularly meeting up with friends or hiking with a local group in our area.

A year and a half ago, after spending ten years on a waiting list for supported housing, Matt was finally able to move out of our family home into a supervised two-bedroom apartment of his own.

My husband and I knew the move was necessary. We could no longer do what we had been able to do for years, in terms of supporting Matt. What we didn't know was how absolutely right this move was for him. He is happy, engaged in his new life, and thrilled with his new apartment. Matthew has let us know that he belongs out on his own. Mom and dad just don't cut it anymore.

As the theme of this year's report reflects, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have just as much of a right to live independently; and to work, learn, and participate in their communities as any other citizen. New Jersey is their home too.





***Alison Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A.
Executive Director***

Letter from the Executive Director

The focus of this year's annual report is "New Jersey is My Home Too." The reason this topic was chosen is because the basic philosophy of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities is that all people belong in the community. We have been pleased over the past year that NJ Governor Chris Christie made the decision to close two institutions in New Jersey, North Jersey and Woodbridge Developmental Centers. Although there has been opposition to this ruling, Governor Christie has been resolute about his decision.

There is still much work to be done. Adequate reimbursement and training for Direct Support staff must be a priority. Homes that are safe and appropriate to residents' needs must be secured. Employment support or day activities that meet the unique needs of individuals must be developed. Transportation that is efficient and respectful to riders' needs must be provided. Medical facilities and staff need to be trained to meet some of the unique needs of people who may have medical or behavioral challenges. Public

facilities in the community need to be adapted for people who may have mobility differences.

In the current times of fiscal restraints, it may look like a huge challenge to make the changes that are necessary for people with developmental disabilities to become full participants in our communities. But this must be done, because as the old adage says, "this ship has left the harbor." People with developmental disabilities are going to live in our communities, whether they are coming out of institutions or have always lived with their families.

So, get ready New Jersey, because this is our home too!





About Us

Since 1971, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) has worked toward its vision that people with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to set real goals and make their own choices; and to exercise the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities that any other New Jersey resident enjoys.

The Council meets four times a year and may have up to 30 members. In FY-2012, there were 29.

The majority – 60 percent – are people with developmental disabilities or immediate family members of people with developmental disabilities. The Governor appoints these council members.

The executive directors from the NJCDD's two sister agencies, the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and Disability Rights New Jersey, also serve as members of the Council. Both agencies are mandated, as we are, by the federal *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act*.

Other members include various representatives from key state agencies, ensuring that policymakers have a direct way to interact with and get input from people with developmental disabilities and family members about key public policy issues.

In addition, the director of a private provider agency

also serves on the Council, bringing a valuable perspective from the field of community providers.

The Council operates under a five-year planning structure, which it adjusts annually. Members discuss and define priority areas and focus activities around achieving the goals outlined in the operational plan.

The Council meets these goals through the planning and implementation of in-house projects and on-going programs and partnerships, as well as by awarding grants to innovative programs and organizations throughout the state.

Our advocacy and leadership training programs help to guide individuals and their families towards finding their own voice in working with community leaders; and facilitate dialogue with professionals who influence public and private systems of support for people with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, the Council collaborates with various partners in the developmental disabilities community to monitor public and private support systems and make recommendations to public officials, government agencies, private providers, and community representatives about ways to improve them.

For a complete list of Council members, meeting schedules, and other background information, visit our website at www.njcdd.org.



Our Vision

All People with Developmental Disabilities...

- are participating, equally included members of their neighborhoods and communities
- make real choices and have control over their own lives
- have the freedom to strive, excel, and make mistakes
- are in a position to achieve personal goals
- are in a position to affect policy and decisions that have an impact on their lives
- have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship as any other New Jersey resident



What Are Developmental Disabilities?

"Developmental Disability" means a significant, chronic disability of an individual that...

- is attributed to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- is manifested before the individual reaches 22 years of age
- is likely to continue indefinitely
- results in substantial 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
 - vii. economic self-sufficiency
- reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that is of lifelong or an extended duration and is individually planned and coordinated

An exception applies to children from birth to age nine, who have substantial developmental delays or specific congenital or acquired conditions, which are likely to become developmental disabilities if services are not provided.

Some examples of developmental disabilities are: intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, chronic seizure disorders, autism spectrum disorders, spina bifida, and early onset brain traumas



Council Programs

Monday Morning Network

Monday Morning is a statewide organization of people with developmental disabilities who speak out for systems change, access to public places and services, and a greater voice in community planning. These advocates work with community leaders, educate the public on issues that are important to all persons with developmental disabilities, and encourage others to join them in their efforts.

The Monday Morning Network is nationally recognized and has been duplicated by Developmental Disabilities Councils across the country.

FY-2012 saw the establishment of two new Monday Morning chapters in Ocean and Middlesex Counties, as well as the reorganization of its Morris and Mercer County chapters.

The program held statewide advocacy trainings in January and June of 2012. The first event was centered on building community-organizing techniques for use in the NJCDD's *An Institution is Not a Home* campaign. The second statewide event expanded on the techniques learned earlier, and looked at ways to promote the Council's *Anti-Bullying* initiative.

As a follow-up to these trainings, Kate Blisard, head of the *NJ Seeking Ways Out Together* team, conducted individualized training sessions for each Monday Morning chapter, focusing on closing New Jersey's institutions.

Armed with the information and skills needed to conduct effective advocacy work, several Monday Morning members throughout the state were able to schedule meetings with their local legislators to talk about closing developmental centers in New Jersey.





Council Programs

Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is a leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and family members. Participants (*Partners*) gain knowledge and skills that build their competency as advocates who can effectively influence public policy.

Partners have access to the most up-to-date information on disability issues and best practices in the field. They become familiar with policymaking and legislative processes at the local, state, and federal levels. The overall goal of the program is to achieve an effective partnership between people needing and using services and those in a position to affect policy and law.

Partners meet for one weekend-long training session per month over eight months, with each session devoted to specific topics such as the history of the independent living, parent, and self advocacy movements; community organizing; how government works; and family support, among others. Partners are tasked with completing assignments between sessions and committing to one major project, such as participating in an internship, organizing a letter writing campaign, or organizing a reception or town meeting with public officials.

Near the end of this training course, participants are asked to prepare testimony pertaining to real developmental disabilities policies or legislation, which they present to a panel of representatives from the State Legislator at a mock hearing held at the New Jersey State House.

At this year's mock hearing, representatives for the offices of State Senator Linda Greenstein (District 14) and State Assemblyman Troy Singleton (District 7), as well as Senate Majority Chief of Staff Jason Redd, graciously volunteered their time to hear testimony from PIP Partners. The participants offered testimony on a number of senate and assembly bills, including those focusing on special education programs, funding for developmental disabilities support services, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities' waiting list for community housing placements.

In April 2012, eleven individuals graduated from the 15th training class of the *Partners* program.





Council Programs

Youth Leadership Program

The NJCDD's *Youth Leadership Program* works with local groups and community-based organizations to provide leadership training for young adults with developmental disabilities. While attending fun and informative training sessions, these young people develop skills to make them leading voices for themselves and other people with developmental disabilities.

Over the course of eight two-hour sessions, participants learn to hone their advocacy and public speaking skills, participate in team building exercises and learn how government works. The program encourages its participants to carry the wide variety of skills and information that they gain out into the world of self-advocacy.

In FY-2012, the Youth Leadership Program hosted a number of training groups in collaboration with the Family Resource Network in Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey, educating over 50 youth advocates on ways to be effective leaders in their communities, including youth athletes at the Special Olympics in Lawrenceville, NJ.

A new weeklong training model was introduced this year. Over the course of the week, each day's lessons built on the day before. This alternate method of training was highly effective and

received positive feedback from all involved.

Youth Advocates this year have also worked with the Council to promote the *R-Word* and *Anti-Bullying* campaigns in their respective schools and communities.





Council Programs

Statewide Family Support Councils

The NJCDD's *Regional Family Support Planning Councils* (RFSPCs) provide a way for family members caring for someone with developmental disabilities at home to come together to exchange knowledge and participate in the design of needed community services.

RFSPCs throughout New Jersey serve specific regions made up of one to three counties each. Family members of people with developmental disabilities living at home and people with developmental disabilities themselves serve as volunteers on their local RFSPCs.

Members monitor and evaluate family support programs, inform families about current family support issues, provide information to policymakers, and advocate to local officials and state legislators about their needs. They also collaborate with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), to provide input on policy decisions that directly affect individuals and their families.

Additionally, RFSPC members attend various trainings, stakeholder meetings, lectures, and conferences throughout the year regarding policy changes, available services, Medicare/Medicaid, and resources.

In FY-2012, Family Support members were active in getting vital information out to families across New Jersey in response to the state's decision to transition children with developmental disabilities under the age of 21, registered for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), over to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Support councils statewide conducted numerous public forums and information sessions where DDD and DCF officials were present to provide information and take questions from families. The Statewide Family Support Coordinator, along with members from several regional support councils also scheduled a number of meetings throughout the year to ensure that DCF understands the unique circumstances and considerations that must be taken when serving families of children with developmental disabilities.





NJCDD Initiatives & Partnerships 2012 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

On Saturday, September 1, 2012, Six Flags Great Adventure once again hosted the NJCDD for its Second Annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day* to promote respect for New Jersey's active and diverse developmental disabilities community.

During the daylong celebration, NJCDD staff and volunteers were stationed at the park's main entrance where they greeted park-goers to promote the Council's *R-Word* and *Anti-Bullying* campaigns. Both campaigns call on the public to help put an end to use of the words "retard" and "retarded" in everyday speech and to join against bullying in our schools and communities.

Those who visited the Council's table were able to receive complimentary *R-Word* and *Anti-Bullying* materials including T-shirts, buttons, bracelets, bumper stickers, and more; as well as to sign the NJCDD's *R-word Pledge*. By day's end, thousands of people had stopped by to sign the pledge and receive T-shirts and materials – many of which were visible throughout the park as visitors wore them proudly all day.

Joining the NJCDD were staff and volunteers from nine other developmental disabilities service and advocacy organizations, who were stationed throughout the park to educate the public on the

work that their organizations do in the community.

The event kicked-off with an opening ceremony, where the Council was joined by several honored guests including Jackson Township Mayor Michael Reina, Jackson Township Councilman Scott Martin, NJ State Assemblyman Ron Dancer (District 12), and a representative from the office of US Congressman Chris Smith (District 4).





NJCDD Initiatives & Partnerships 2012 Community Building Awards

Each year, the NJCDD looks to the public to help us identify visionary public policy makers, inclusive media outlets, diligent advocates, and devoted educators from all across our state. The Council believes such individuals or organizations should be commended and given the acknowledgment they deserve.

The *Community Building Awards* are intended to show encouragement, support, and recognition to those who have exhibited an exceptional commitment to promoting community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey. Eight award categories were created to honor the hard work and dedication of these community leaders.

The 2012 Community Building Awards Luncheon was held on April 18, 2012 at the Lafayette Yard Marriott in Trenton, NJ. In Addition to honoring eight award recipients, the Council was pleased to have the Commissioner of the US Department of Health & Human Services, Sharon Lewis, as keynote speaker for the event.

The Recipients for the 2012 Community Building Awards were:

Colleen Frasier Self Advocate Award -

Robert Fesel (Lawrenceville)

Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate

Award - Kathy Roberson (Middlesex)

& Marianne Pettineo (Fairlawn)

Lifetime Achievement Award -

Richard West (Tuckerton)

Distinguished DD Systems Change Award -

Lowell Arye (Deputy Commissioner –

NJ Dept. of Human Services)

Access Above and Beyond Award - ANI Medical

Transportation (South Orange)

Exceptional Policymaker Award - NJ Assembly

Majority Leader Louis D. Greenwald (District 6)

Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award -

Lisa Benjamin (Long Beach Island Consolidated School District)





NJCDD Initiatives & Partnerships

Together We Are Stronger Than Bullying

Bullying can occur at any time, in any place, and at any age; whether at home, school, a place of worship, or in the workplace. All people deserve to live in a world free from harassment and abuse.

In FY-2012, the NJCDD expanded upon the message presented by its *R-Word* campaign to shed light on the high incidence of bullying that individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages face in schools, the workplace, and within the community. With its slogan, "Together We Are Stronger Than Bullying", the Council is calling on all members of our communities to work with them to put an end to all types of bullying, and letting individuals know that help is available to end bullying in their lives.

Council staff and volunteers have appeared at numerous community events and public schools to spread the message and provide information on how to identify and put a stop to bullying wherever it is seen. As with the *R-Word* campaign, *Anti-Bullying* materials such as T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers, and posters have been made available to community groups, educators, and the public to build support for the effort.

To find out more about the Council's *Anti-Bullying* campaign, or to request materials or a presentation for your school or community group, visit the *Together We Are Stronger Than Bullying* page at www.njcdd.org.

New Website & Social Media

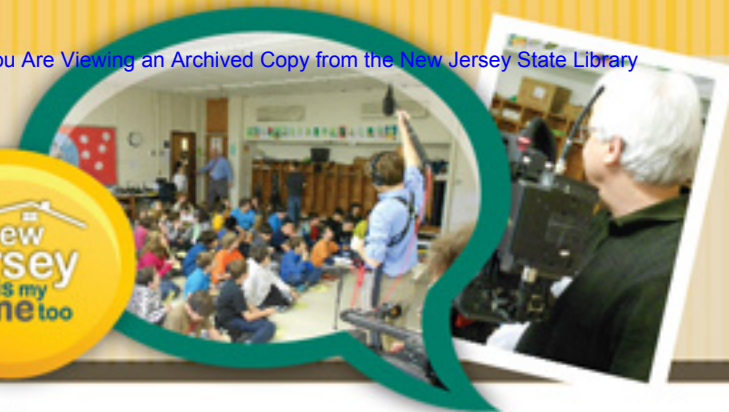
In the Spring of 2012, the Council completely redesigned and upgraded its website, creating a more accessible and visually engaging online destination for visitors to find information and resources they need, and to learn more about Council programs and initiatives.

The new site offers online materials and expanded information about our programs and projects; plus a variety of options for visitors to reach out to our staff and advocacy groups to get involved.

Other features include interactive online versions of council publications, links to important DD news stories from around New Jersey and across the country, and more.

The NJCDD has also established its social media presence, launching pages on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Visitors to these outlets can find updates on our events and activities, view videos, discover articles and web links, and share their views with the Council and others.

Visit us at www.njcdd.org, "Like Us" at www.facebook.com/NJCDD, Tweet us @theNJCDD, or search for "TheNJCDD" on YouTube for more information!



NJCDD Initiatives & Partnerships

The NJCDD on Classroom Close-Up, NJ

In March of 2012, the NJCDD's Youth Leadership Coordinator, Frank Latham, visited Sandman Consolidated Elementary School in Lower Township, NJ to give a group of students a presentation about the Council's *R-Word* Campaign. While Latham frequently gives *R-Word* presentations throughout the year to schools and community groups all over New Jersey, on this day he was joined by the producers and crew of the popular and long-running public television program *Classroom Close-up, NJ*.

The crew recorded Latham as he gave a lively and educational presentation to the students on the impact that using hurtful language like the word "retard" can have on people with disabilities and those who love them. The presentation also encouraged the students to not only stop using the *R-word* in their own everyday speech, but to also help spread the word to their friends, families, and community to stop using the word as well.

After the presentation, the show's producers interviewed students and educators on what they had learned, and asked them to reflect on the importance of being aware of the power that their words can have on others.

Produced by the New Jersey Education Association, *Classroom Close-Up, NJ* is a public television program that highlights positive programs, educational exercises, and gifted teachers and administrators throughout New Jersey's public school system. The 30-minute weekly series also features the students, teachers, school staff, and community groups who create and participate in successful school projects and events.

The episode featuring this story aired September 16, 2012 on NJTV. The segment is available to view online at the NJCDD's YouTube channel and at www.njea.org/about/classroom-close-up.





Grants

Green Sports, NJ

The Arc of Union County

In October 2010, Arc Union began developing Green Sports, NJ as an environmentally responsible and affordable local retail alternative for quality used sporting goods while at the same time providing employment and training opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. The retail store officially opened on March 17, 2011, employing individuals with a broad spectrum of developmental disabilities, and providing opportunities at a variety of skill levels.

For many, the store has given them their first chance to work in the community and to learn every aspect of the retail business. Those skills include pricing, stocking shelves, running a cash register, and customer relations; and are transferrable to other community jobs. Upon becoming proficient, employees/trainees are paid at the higher prevailing wage rate for "experienced employees."

In FY-2012, The NJCDD provided additional funding to support the program as it grows. During the year, Green Sports, NJ hired seven

individuals with developmental disabilities and served as a job sampling site for several others. Many workers have become more computer savvy while learning valuable transferable skills; and as employees become more experienced, Green Sports, NJ will begin to transition them into other employment opportunities in the community.





Grants

Learn-Do-Earn

Family Resource Network

The Family Resource Network (FRN) is a comprehensive family-focused human service organization dedicated to offering New Jersey residents living with epilepsy, developmental disabilities, and chronic illness the greatest opportunities, resources, and services to support a full and happy life.

For this grant project, FRN has been working with the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce to develop a product called *Learn-Do-Earn – All Students Participate* (LDE-ASP) for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The project works to ensure that students get the information they need to improve their educational, career, financial, and life options and know how their personal behaviors affect their employability.

In its first year, the FRN developed focus groups and compiled a database of those interested in LDE-ASP. The focus groups found that web based tools will be a major necessity for this program. Based on these recommendations, the organization developed computer and web-based tool kits to integrate into the LDE-ASP curriculum. These tools include online videos, interactive

activities, and printable materials for students and their family members.

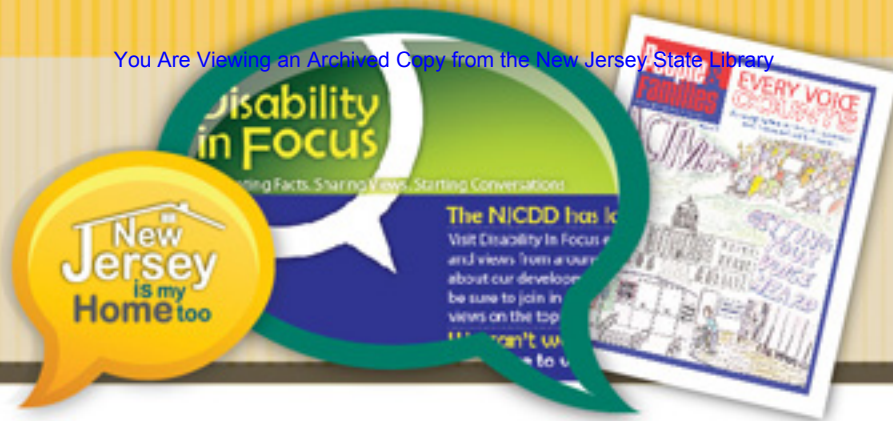
Mini Grants

The NJCDD introduced a mini-grant process in FY-2007 to encourage new and innovative local activity that will result in meaningful benefits for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Specifically geared toward smaller, community-based ideas activities and programs, mini-grant funds can be used in a variety of ways.

In FY-2012, mini-grant funds aided numerous projects including the development of inter-personal and team-building exercises for children on the Autism Spectrum; school district-wide poster contests promoting inclusive education; and presentations and rallies encouraging community inclusion and awareness for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey.

For more information, or to apply for a grant, please visit our website at www.njcdd.org.



Publications & Blogs

People & Families Magazine

People & Families is the NJCDD's nationally recognized quarterly magazine. The publication focuses on issues of importance to the developmental disabilities community in New Jersey; provides vital information for families and self advocates; highlights organizations, programs, and individuals making positive changes in the developmental disabilities community; and shares noteworthy stories from across the state and the nation.

Topics covered in 2012 include assistive technology, parents with developmental disabilities, voting rights, and innovative community housing options; as well as updates on policies and legislation important to people and their families in New Jersey.

To view past issues of *People & Families* or to sign up for a free subscription, visit www.njcdd.org

Common Ground

Published three times a year, the NJCDD's *Common Ground* newsletter features articles that cover current issues in special education, highlights legal and legislative developments that shape educational services; and provides important resources and information for parents, educators, and professionals.

The publication's goal is to share information about issues that affect students with disabilities

with a readership that includes general education teachers, parents, legislators, speech therapists, and others.

Visit www.NJCommonGround.org to find out more.

Disability in Focus

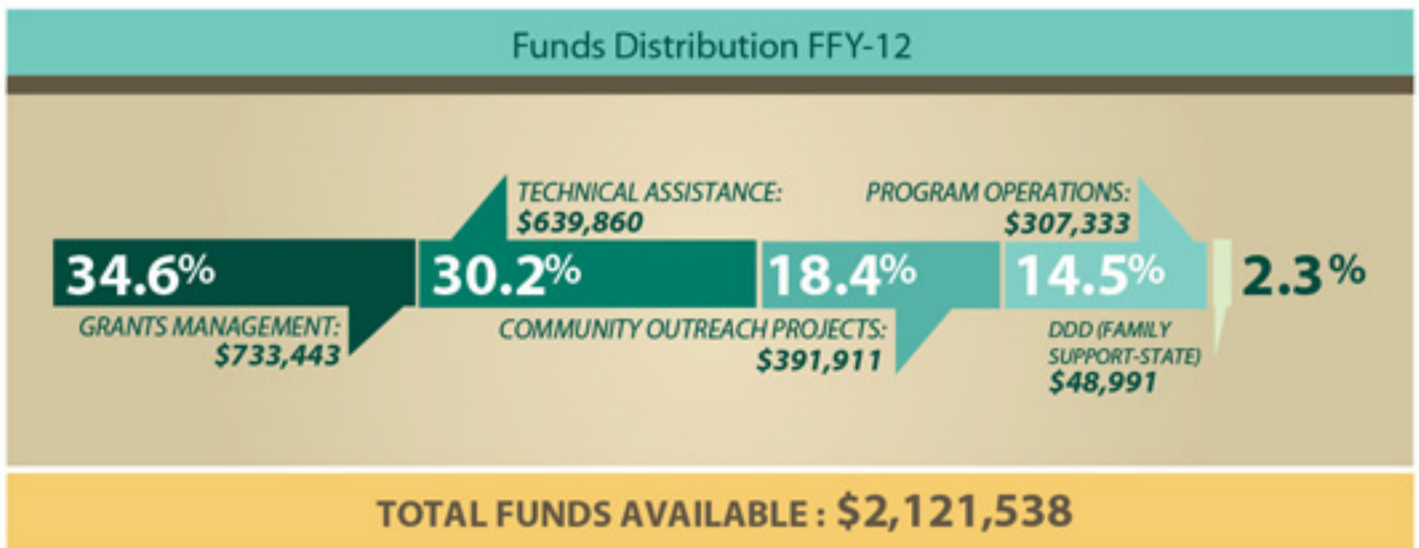
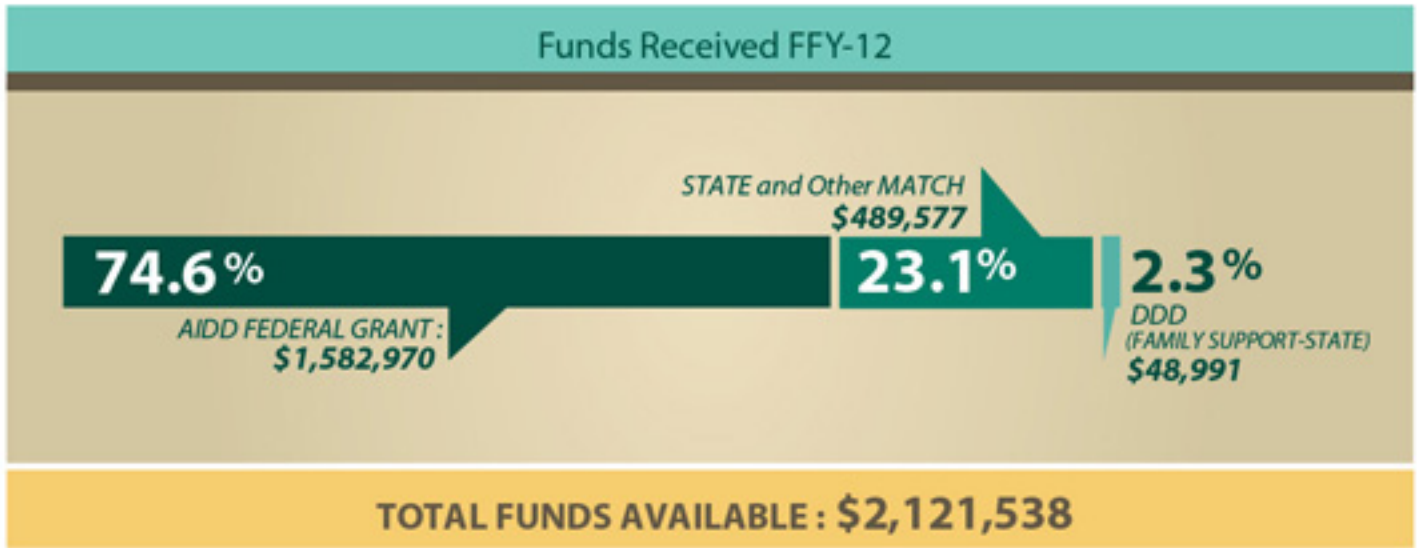
In the summer of 2012, the NJCDD launched its *Disability In Focus* blog, which features weekly entries that inform and engage readers on important topics relating to developmental disabilities on the international, national, state, and local level.

The inspiration for this blog grew from the Council's previous social media project, the *Just Say Something* campaign, which provided an open forum for people within New Jersey's developmental disabilities community to share their stories, express their feelings, and connect with one another. This blog broadens that scope – shedding light and guiding dialogue about important community and policy issues, and inviting our readers to share their own views and broaden their perspectives.

Thus far, *Disability in Focus* has seen huge success, regularly drawing in over a thousand readers each week.

To see what we're talking about this week, visit us at www.njcdd.org.

Federal Grant End of Year Report



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Vice-Chair

Christopher Miller

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Andrew McGeady - Jackson, NJ

Christopher Miller - Neptune City, NJ

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Gary Rubin - Elizabeth, NJ

Betsy Smith - Montclair, NJ

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Safiyah Muhammad -

East Orange, NJ

Christine Pietrow -

Maple Shade, NJ

Regina Tegeler - Bridgewater, NJ

Leah Ziskin, M.D. - Cherry Hill, NJ

FEDERALLY MANDATED MEMBERS

Federally mandated members of the Council serve in accordance with the federal *Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act*.

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Division of Family Health Services

Gloria Rodriguez, Assistant Commissioner
Designee: Pauline Lisclotto

NJ DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

Office of Special Education Programs

Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner
Designee: Kimberly Murray

NJ DEPARTMENT OF LABOR;

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Alice Hunnicutt, Director
Designee: David Free

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;

Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

Valerie Harr, Director
Designee: Phyllis Napier Melendez

AIDD FUNDED AGENCIES

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM

Disability Rights New Jersey

Joseph Young, Executive Director

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Deborah Spitalnik, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

Designee: Michael Knox, Ph.D.

STATE STATUTE MANDATED MEMBERS

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Division of Developmental Disabilities

Dawn Apgar, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;

Division of Disability Services

Joseph Amoroso, Director
Designee: Harry Pizutelli

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(Partners in Policymaking)
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Monday Morning Network Coordinator

Barbara Lee

Youth Leadership Project Coordinator

Frank Latham

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Gail Hodges

Graphic Designer/Web Administrator

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