

Advocating across a Lifespan

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## Vision

That all individuals with developmental disabilities are contributing 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 influence policy and process decisions that affect their lives; and have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship as does any other New Jersey resident.

## What is a **developmental disability?** A developmental disability is a condition that:

- Is attributable to an intellectual or physical impairment or combination of both
- Is manifest before age 22;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial function limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity, that is, self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction and capacity for independent living or economic self-sufficiency; and
- Reflects the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services, which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.



# NJCDD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The New Jersey Coucil on Developmental Disabilities





It is enlightening when we take pause to look back over the past year. It helps us appreciate, although our work is never done, how much we have accomplished, which is often hard to realize among the daily grind. Looking back over 2015, I am pleased with the progress the Council has made in elevating the voice of those we represent. We have been actively pursuing a seat at the table for those with developmental disabilities at state and local levels. Because this is a continual journey, we consistently work at expanding the opportunities to partner with those who are in positions to shape the future of our system.

Along with many of the initiatives you will read about in this annual report, we have worked diligently behind the scenes to keep the Council's expertise at the forefront of policy and planning. In our quest to solidify our relationships with legislators and state agencies, we are making it a priority to regularly meet with those in leadership positions. We recognize the importance of having someone with a developmental disability or a family member be a part of these discussions to share their story. Real life stories intimately reflect areas of challenge and the viability in implementation of current programs and supports. It is what some might refer to as 'where the rubber meets the road.' We see this as a valuable opportunity to educate others with the hope they will gain a better understanding of our daily lives and what is needed to enhance the current systems.

We are equally encouraged by the partnerships we are creating with other organizations who share our vision to achieve equality for those with developmental disabilities in communities all around the state. Through a request for proposals, we are looking to refresh our Partners in Policymaking program to develop and create a training which will teach self-advocates and family members about our policy structures and improve their advocacy abilities. One of our priorities is to attract individuals who wish to channel their passion and strengthen their voice.

We are dedicated to expanding the network of effective advocates. I look forward to working in the coming year to increase our reach throughout the State to balance the vast demand for effective advocacy.

Stephanie A. Pratico Council Chair The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities



It has been a great pleasure to work with families and self-advocates in New Jersey since I became the Executive Director at the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) in March of 2015. In that time, I have had the privilege to travel throughout this state to hear their stories and gain a better understanding of their unique challenges and goals for the future.

In working with the members and staff of the NJCDD this past year, I am very proud of all that we have accomplished. 2015 has seen the growth and development of the Council's People First New Jersey program, which empowers people with disabilities to take charge of their advocacy goals and to work toward building a better society where people with disabilities are valued and fully included. Our Regional Family Support Planning Councils have worked with well over 1,000 families, conveying their needs to key decision-makers at the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Children and Families, and Division of Disability Services. Our Partners in Policymaking (PIP) program trained a new crop of family and self-advocates who have joined our over 400 previous PIP graduates in fighting for the rights of all people with developmental disabilities and their families.

In communities across New Jersey, the NJCDD has been there – providing trainings and presentations to youth, self-advocates, families, emergency responders, and policymakers; collaborating with support organizations and disability agency personnel; and meeting with legislators to push for expanded services and opportunities for the population we serve.

Fiscal Year 2016 continues to present more opportunities for the Council to grow and make an impact. This year, we are revamping our Partners in Policymaking program to bring in new viewpoints in disability advocacy on the state and national level. We are also in the process of developing our next five-year plan for 2017-2021, during which we will focus our advocacy on the areas of family and self-advocate training, direct support staffing issues, special education advocacy, employment, transportation, health and wellness, and housing. Throughout this summer, we will be solidifying our specific goals and objectives relating to this plan, and we welcome the public to contribute their own insights into this effort. To learn more, visit us online at **www.njcdd.org**.

The theme of this year's report is "Be The Voice". It is the NJCDD's belief that all people, regardless of their impairments, should expect to have a voice in our society. As our vision states, people with developmental disabilities deserve the opportunity to be included in all facets of our communities, whether at school, at work, or at play. We will continue to help people with developmental disabilities and their families to find and strengthen their voice in hopes that one day soon, that vision will be fully realized.

Kevin T. Casey Executive Director The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities







#### About the NJ Council of Developmental Disabilities

Established in 1971, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) is a federally mandated disability rights and advocacy organization that seeks to give individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members a greater voice in the planning and implementation of policies that affect their lives. The Council also fosters leadership and advocacy skills within such individuals so that they can work on their own behalf to create better communities where all people with disabilities have the ability to pursue full lives of their choosing.

The NJCDD may have up to 30 members at any time. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 there were 26 members. 60% of the Council's membership is comprised of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and family members of people with I/DD. These members are appointed by the governor of New Jersey.

The remaining members represent a number of I/DD advocacy and public policy organizations, and their presence on the Council is mandated by the state and federal government. The executive directors from the NJCDD's two sister agencies, Disability Rights New Jersey and the

Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities sit on the Council, as well as individuals from a number of state organizations and agencies who design and carry out services upon which people with I/DD and their families rely. Finally, a representative from one of New Jersey's private I/DD service organizations also sits on the Council.

This mixture of individuals and families, public and private support agencies, and disability advocacy organizations ensures that a wide variety of viewpoints are represented on the Council, and that individuals and family members have the opportunity to affect real change in how I/DD services are planned and delivered.

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.



#### **People First New Jersey**

The international self-advocacy movement known as People First is grounded in the philosophy that all people with disabilities, regardless of the level or extent of their disability, are capable and entitled to pursue their own advocacy efforts, on their own terms, and with leadership that is chosen by them. In that spirit, People First organizations aim to be as independent as possible, setting their own agendas and maintaining their own networks of volunteers and partners.

Since 2014, the NJCDD has been working with self-advocates around New Jersey to establish county-level People First chapters across our state. Each People First New Jersey chapter is made up of an advocacy advisor and leadership team, who are chosen by its members. Chapter members identify and organize the advocacy and fellowship activities on which they focus their efforts.

These activities can include leadership trainings, public outreach, letter-writing campaigns, meetings with legislators, and more. Local members may also join with other chapters in their region, or statewide, to take on large-scale advocacy projects that relate to all people with disabilities in New Jersey. In FFY-2015, 79 self-advocates across our state have established eight chapters of People First, including a chapter at New Lisbon Developmental Center. Most other chapter meetings are held in public spaces such as county libraries or community centers.

In addition, the Council's People First Coordinator, Jaymes Brill, joined advocates at eight schools and community organizations across our state, speaking to over 450 students and community members to spread awareness about this new self-advocacy movement. People First advocates also participated in a number of presentations and trainings for students and youth relating to the NJCDD's *R-Word* and *Anti-Bullying* campaigns.

People First advocates have remained active, and have begun developing outreach activities relating to transportation, employment, and disability awareness. Advocates also participated at several protests at the NJ State House and Princeton University, and joined with disability advocates from organizations throughout New Jersey at the Alliance Center for Independence's annual Disability Pride Parade.

For more information about People First New Jersey, and to find out how to get involved, visit **www.njcdd.org.** 



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 provide input into the ways that community services are designed and implemented. There are ten regional councils representing all 21 counties in New Jersey, and membership is comprised entirely of family members of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Council members monitor and evaluate developmental disability service and support programs, inform other families in their area about current family support issues, provide informationandfeedbacktopublicpolicymakers, and advocate to local and state officials about their needs. They also work closely with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide input on policy decision that directly affect individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

In the spring of 2015, the Family Support Councils co-hosted an online survey with the Family Support Coalition of New Jersey to identify service gaps for children and adults with developmental disabilities within the DDD and DCF systems. Over 1,300 families responded to the survey, and their feedback was used in advocacy efforts with DDD/DCF officials. The Family Support Councils hosted 11 public forums and providers fairs throughout the year, welcoming more than 1,000 families to learn more about a variety of topics including DDD system changes (particularly fee-for-service and support coordination), Medicaid eligibility, housing, and how to access services through DDD, DCF, and The Division of Disability Services (DDS).

In addition, four statewide meetings were held at locations around New Jersey. Guest speakers at these meetings included NJ Department of Education Director of Special Education Programs Peg McDonald, (former) NJ Department of Human Services Deputy Commissioner Lowell Arye, Children's System of Care Director Elizabeth Manley, NJ Division of Disability Services Director Joseph Amoroso, and DDD Director of Quality Improvement and System Reform Christine James.

Family Support Council members also met regularly throughout the year with DDD Assistant Commissioner Elizabeth Shea and DCF Director of Children's System of Care (CSOC) Elizabeth Manley. Topics discussed include the State's fee-for-service timeline, tiers, and acuity; the supports program manual; the Home and Community-Based Services Statewide Transition Plan; and the FY-2016 budget.



**Partners in Policymaking (PIP)** is a nationally known leadership and advocacy training program for adults with developmental disabilities and their family members. Participants (Partners) gain knowledge and skills that allow them to make a real impact in influencing public policy.

During this eight-month program, Partners have access to the most up-to-date information on disability issues and best practices in the field of advocacy. They become familiar with policymaking and legislative processes at the local, state, and national levels.

In 2015, Partners met once per month, with each training 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. Partners are tasked with completing assignments between sessions and committing to one major project, such as completing an internship, organizing a letter-writing campaign, or hosting a community outreach event.

Near the end of this training program, Partners are asked to research and prepare testimony pertaining to real developmental disabilities policies or legislation, which they present to a panel of representatives from the NJ State Legislature at a mock hearing held at the NJ State House.

At the 2015 Mock Hearing, held on April 11, Partners were tasked with providing testimony either for or against a number of proposed bills under consideration by the NJ State Legislature. Jason Redd, former Senate Majority Chief of Staff, joined NJCDD staff to serve as a mock legislative committee before which the Partners testified. Bills examined by this year's Partners class were Senate Bill No. 2688, establishing an "MVP Emergency Alert System" for missing persons with mental, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; and Senate Bill No. 301, the Innovative Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act.

On May 17, 2015, ten new graduates joined our roster of nearly 400 advocates who have successfully completed the program.

For more information about the NJCDD's Partners in Policymaking program, visit us online at **www.njcdd.org**.







The NJCDD's Youth Leadership Project works with schools and community-based organizations to provide leadership and advocacy training to young adults aged 15 to 25 with developmental disabilities. While attending fun and engaging training sessions, these young people develop valuable skills to become the next generation of disability advocates in our state.

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

In FFY-2015, the Council's Youth Leadership Project worked with 65 youth advocates in schools and community groups across our state. As these young people with disabilities move on from the program, the NJCDD will continue to encourage their advocacy with the hope that they will continue speaking up for themselves and all people with disabilities as adults.

YouthLeadershipProjectCoordinatorFrankLatham also carried the NJCDD's advocacy message to young people on the state and national level, speaking at a number of conferences and training events including the Dare to Dream Conference and the NJ Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care Annual Conference. Frank also delivered the keynote address to over 300 youth advocates at an Anti-Bullying conference in Florida.

#### **Trainings & Presentations**

In addition to its on-going programs and public awareness campaigns, the NJCDD carries out specialized trainings and presentations within the community to help develop the advocacy skills of its program participants and to raise the level of awareness and sensitivity to disability issues for individuals and organizations throughout our state.

The NJCDD's Youth Leadership Coordinator, Frank Latham presented to 40 different schools and organizations, reaching more than 1,700 students, family members, and other New Jersey residents to spread the word about the Council's campaigns to end bullying and use of the R-word in our schools and communities.

Emergency Preparedness Trainings were held at a number of locations around the state, educating 165 individuals with developmental disabilities on what to do and who to turn to in the event of a flood, hurricane, fire, or other emergency situation.

The Council also held a large number of Crisis Intervention Trainings for law enforcement, first responders, and service providers in Burlington, Hudson, Atlantic, and Cumberland counties, as well as law enforcement officers on the state and federal level.





# Council Grants

#### NJCDD Grants

One of the ways the NJCDD works to promote the goals and objectives in its five-year plan is by offering grants to organizations and programs that are true innovators in providing services to people with developmental disabilities. The programs supported by Council funding offer new, creative, and sustainable opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey.

## Arc of New Jersey / Rutgers University Transportation Research Project

For this project, The Arc of New Jersey and the Rutgers University Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation/ Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center have teamed up to conduct an extensive study on the issue of transportation for people with I/DD. The research team in using a vast network of self-advocacy groups, as well as a large number of other community connections, to interview and record the experiences of individuals with I/DD from every region of our state, and across all socio-economic backgrounds. The study will examine both current and anticipated transportation needs for our disabilities community in relation to employment, community involvement, recreation, independent living, etc.

After compiling these interviews (in both written and audio format), the research team will analyze their findings and develop a summary report identifying trends and themes, and formulating recommendations. The final product will include real-life examples and personal stories from people with disabilities, putting a "face" on the many transportation issues that exist within our state. Once completed, this comprehensive report will be a highly valuable advocacy tool in improving the transportation resources that New Jersey residents with I/DD rely upon. **Mini-Grants** In addition to our large-scale grant projects, the NJCDD also provides a number of mini-grants throughout the year in an effort to encourage innovative new programs and activities that benefit New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities and their families.

In FFY-2015, the council provided funding to a number of programs, including:

- Values into Action, who conducted first responder disability awareness trainings with the help of trainers from the Niagara University First Responders Disability Awareness Program
- Special Parent Advocacy Group, who opened their Special Needs Community Resource Center at PJ Hill Elementary School in Trenton
- Jewish Family and Children's Services, who produced a video of the Soups & Sweets culinary training program, which they used as an education and outreach tool to promote the program and highlight the skills and abilities that Soups & Sweets trainees can bring to potential employers
- **SAMBULANCE Safety Squad**, which provides complimentary safety education to schools and community groups (basic first aid, 911 scenarios, etc.) This grant allowed the program to provide presentations/trainings in the summer months to schools, group homes, camps, clubs, and organizations.

**On-Going Grants** Most of the NJCDD's grant projects are eligible to receive funding for up to three years. In FFY-2015, the Council continued its support of a number programs throughout New Jersey, including: Community Access Unlimited's CAU Community Players program, the Get FIT @ Home 2.0 program, production of the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey's Community-Based Housing Guide, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network's Health Advocacy Toolkit for Families of People with Developmental Disabilities, and Griffin Hammis Associates' NJ Customized Employment Initiative.







#### The 2015 Community Building Awards

Each year, the NJCDD looks to the public to help us identify visionary public policymakers, innovative media outlets, dedicated advocates, and inclusive educators from all across the state. The Council believes such individuals or organizations should be 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 2015 Community Building Awards Luncheon was held on April 22 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Trenton. In addition to honoring six award recipients, the Council was pleased to have our new Executive Director, Kevin Casey, as keynote speaker for the event.

#### The 2015 Community Building Award Winners

- The Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award: Annie Sims
- The Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award: Bonnie Brien
- The Exceptional Policymaker Award: Edward McDonnell, Camden County Freeholder
- The Distinguished DD Systems Change Award: Joseph B. Young, Disability Rights New Jersey
- The Inclusive Education Award: Community Access Unlimited
- The Multi Media Award: Fred Tchang, Assistive Technology Services

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day** For the fifth year in a row, the NJCDD closed out the summer with our annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD Awareness Day) celebration at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson.

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, the Council was joined by volunteers from across the state, including those representing Community Options, Inc., Easter Seals NJ, The Family Resource Network, Community Access Unlimited, and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc. (SPAN), to meet and greet Six Flags guests and promote awareness and respect for our state's population of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Hundreds of people took advantage of our special partnership with the theme park to obtain deeply discounted tickets to join us for this celebration. Park-goers stopped by our DD Awareness Day tables in droves to receive information about our developmental disabilities community and the services offered to those with I/DD and their families. While visiting us, they were also able to receive a variety of fun prizes and giveaways including bracelets, knapsacks, bandannas, buttons and more, and to sign the NJCDD's R-Word Pledge.

As is often a gratifying sight to see at each year's DD Awareness Day, Six Flags guests could be spotted throughout the park all day wearing





# Collaborations & Partnerships

their disability awareness materials, helping us to further our message about respect, awareness, and inclusion for our state's thriving and diverse disabilities community.

To view photos from the 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day, visit us online at **www.njcdd.org** 

#### **Collaborations & Partnerships**

The NJCDD collaborates extensively with advocacy groups, public and private agencies, educators, community groups, and volunteer organizations, believing that only by working together toward reaching common goals can we all hope to create positive change and significant progress for our developmental disabilities community.

In FFY-2015, the NJCDD had the honor to work with talented individuals from a variety of organizations on issues important to people with disabilities throughout New Jersey and across the nation. The following is a list of some of the organizations with which the NJCDD collaborated this past year:

- The NJ Olmstead Advisory Committee
- The NJ Commission of Traumatic Brain Injury Research (NJCTBIR)
- The NJ Transit ADA Taskforce & Citizens Advisory Committee
- The NJ Protection and Advocacy DD Advisory Board
- The NJ Self-Advocacy Advisory Board

- The Get Fit Statewide Coalition
- The NJ Gained Taskforce for Disaster Response Planning
- Easter Seals NJ Emergency Preparedness Training
- The Family Support Coalition
- The Children's Interagency Coordinating Committee (CIACC)
- The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey Membership and Developers Committees
- Southern Region Children's Coordinating Council
- The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders Taskforce
- The Arc CARES/Atlantic County Taskforce
- The Children's System of Care Advisory Workgroup
- The NACDD National Strategic Planning Committee
- The NJ State Association of Jewish Federations Special Needs Working Group
- The DDD Quality Focus Group
- The Arc of New Jersey Partners in Justice Team
- The NJ Dept. of Education Statewide Special Education Advisory Council

As is often a gratifying sight to see at each year's DD Awareness Day, Six Flags guests could be spotted throughout the park all day wearing their disability awareness materials, helping us to further our message about respect, awareness, and inclusion for our state's thriving and diverse disabilities community.

To view photos from the 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day, visit us online at www.njcdd.org







#### **Conferences & Events**

In an ongoing effort to spread awareness of the NJCDD's work in the community, the Council often presents information tables and displays at conferences and events geared toward audiences with developmental disabilities and the public at large.

The following is a list of some of the conferences and events at which the council was present in FFY-2015:

- The NJ Black Issues Convention
- The 2015 Disability Policy Seminar
- The Arc of New Jersey Equal Justice Conference
- The NJ Association of Community Providers
- NJ Department of Children and Families Resource Fairs
- The Abilities Expo
- The NJ Brain Injury Research Commission Conference
- The NJ Transit Transaction Conference
- The Monmouth County Transition Conference for College & Career Readiness
- The Advocates Spring into Action Luncheon
- The Latino Psychological Association
- NJ League of Municipalities Conference

In addition, Council staff and advocates were invited to speak before audiences at a number of events on the state, national, and international level. All told, over 4,600 students, parents, DD professionals, and advocates attended speaking engagements by NJCDD representatives. Some of the events at which Council members and staff spoke include:

- The 2015 Disability Pride Parade
- The Dare to Dream Conference (six events throughout 2015)
- The Arc of Monmouth County Self-Advocacy Group
- Statewide Youth Leadership Conference
- People First of Canada Annual Meeting
- Claiming Full Citizenship Conference
- DD Awareness Day Events (held at eight schools throughout 2015)
- DCF Resource Fairs
- Southern New Jersey Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC)
- ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration/Luncheon







#### At the Statehouse

Throughout the past year, NJCDD council members and staff met with key legislators at all levels of government in an effort to keep representatives informed of the needs and concerns of New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities and their families. State legislators with which the Council met included Senate President Steven Sweeney, Assemblyman Dan Benson, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Senator Robert Gordon, Assemblyman Gary Shaer, Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera, and Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle.

The Council also met with federal lawmakers including US Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, and Congressmen Tom MacArthur, Chris Smith, and Scott Garrett to discuss such issues as the *ABLE Act*, special education, Medicaid and Social Security Benefits, and the A*utism CARES Act* (formerly known as the *Combating Autism Act*).

The NJCDD's Executive Director Kevin Casey provided testimony at the request of several state legislative committees on issues pertaining to the *Return Home New Jersey* program, the state budget, the need for increased housing options, and the continued closing of state developmental centers. The Council also submitted testimony and voiced concerns with legislators about feefor-service rules, the Department of Human Services' State Transition Plan regarding Home and Community-Based Services, and the need to increase funding for improved compensation for Direct Support Professionals.



Publications, Web and Social Media



#### People & Families Magazine

The NJCDD's quarterly magazine, *People & Families*, focuses on key issues of importance to New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities and their families. In addition, the magazine highlights programs, individuals, and family members within our state who are working to make our communities more inclusive and accepting of people with developmental disabilities.

In 2015, the magazine covered a wide range of topics, from the 25th anniversary of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, inclusive sports programs, transitioning into adult life, community-based housing, sheltered workshops, the passage of the *ABLE Act*, transportation, and more.

Subscription to *People & Families Magazine* is free, and can be obtained at **www.njcdd.org.** Web visitors may also view our archive of past issues and request additional hardcopies (while supplies last).

#### **Common Ground**

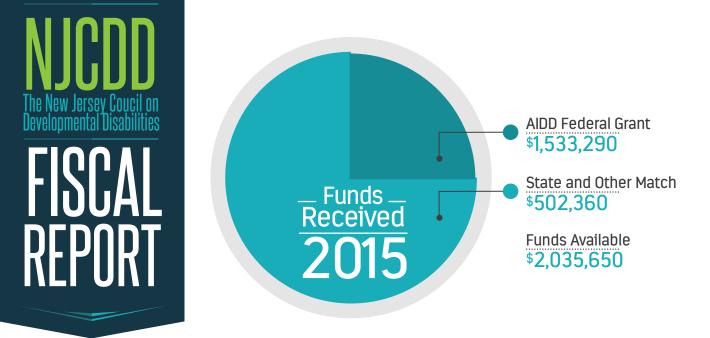
The Council's newsletter for parents, educators, and special education stakeholders completed its transition into a fully on-line news source for key issues in New Jersey's special education system. In addition to publishing new editions of the e-newsletter three times this year, a website was established to allow readers to track legislative updates and to provide further information to parents, educators, and advocates. To sign up for the *Common Ground* newsletter, and to learn more, visit **www.NJCommonGround.org**.

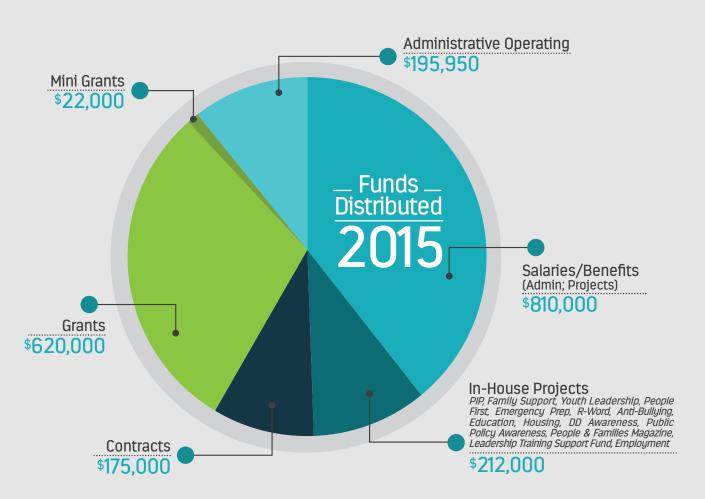
#### Web and Social Media

The NJCDD's blog, *Disability in Focus*, had over 40,000 web visitors in 2015, covering such topics as New Jersey's housing waiting list, parents with developmental disabilities, and the importance of sex education for people with disabilities in relation to the criminal justice system. Through communication efforts via eblasts, web, Facebook, and Twitter, important NJCDD announcements and updates were seen by over 80,000 web visitors and email recipients









### NJCDD 2015 The New Jersey Coucil on Developmental Disabilities Directory

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Chair: Stephanie A. Pratico Vice-Chair: Christopher Miller

#### SELF ADVOCATE MEMBERS

Todd Emmons Russell Fried Andrew McGeady Myrta Rosa Gary Rubin

#### FAMILY OR GUARDIAN MEMBERS

Ellie Byra Walter Fernandez Tara Montague Safiyyah Muhammad Christine Pietrow Leah Ziskin, M.D. Paul A. Blaustein

#### FEDERALLY MANDATED MEMBERS

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

#### **State Agency Representatives**

NJ Department Of Health and Senior Services; Division of Family Health Services Gloria Rodriguez, Assistant Commissioner

NJ Department of Education; Office of Special Education Programs Peg McDonald

NJ Department of Labor; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Alice Hunnicutt, Director NJ Department of Human Services; Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services Valerie Harr, Director

#### **State Statute Mandated Members**

NJ Department of Human Services; Division of Developmental Disabilities Elizabeth M. Shea; Assistant Commissioner

NJ Department of Human Services; Division of Disability Services Joseph Amoroso, Director

#### **Public Agency Member**

The Arc/Morris Chaper William Testa, Executive Director

#### **Council Staff**

Executive Director Kevin T. Casey

Fiscal Officer/Office Manager Gail Furrer

Disabilities Service Specialist Dennie Todd

Youth Leadership Project Coordinator Frank Latham

People First NJ Coordinator Jaymes Brill

Statewide Coordinator of Regional Family Support Planning Councils Kyoko Coco

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# NJCDD The New Jersey Coucil on Developmental Disabilities 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



