**frequently asked questions**

1. **What is the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities (NDSCDD)**

The Council provides opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion. The council believes individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live a full, productive and independent life in the community; and the greatest impact on public policy occurs through self-advocacy.

The Council supports these beliefs by promoting self-advocacy; providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to impact public policy through self-advocacy; promoting activities that build the capacity of communities to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to actively participate in community life; promoting system-wide changes that result in long-term positive impact on the capacity of individuals with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives in their home communities; increasing public awareness and working to eliminate the attitudinal barriers that impact independence, productivity, and inclusion. In addition the Council fosters and supports coalitions with other advocacy and community groups; and promoting close working relationships among and between the various public and private service providers.

1. **How is NDSCDD funded?**

NDSCDD was established through the Developmental Disabilities Act (P.L. 106-402) and is funded by the federal government. Councils are uniquely composed of individuals with developmental disabilities, parents and family members of people with developmental disabilities, representatives of State agencies that administer funds under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, and local and nongovernmental agencies. Members of a Council are appointed by a State’s governor.

1. **Is NDSCDD a service provider?**

The Council works with members of state government to support initiatives designed to promote advocacy, system change and capacity building for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. NDSCDD does not provide direct services or make referrals to services.

1. **How does the Council work with people developmental disabilities and their families?**

The Council creates initiatives that give a voice to people with developmental disabilities and their families by promoting leadership and self-advocacy; and developing coalitions to improve public policy.

1. **How does NDSCDD establish its priorities?**

The Council develops a State Plan every five years to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. The Council talks with individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and advocates about how to improve the system of services and supports over the next five years. The State Plan is updated every year based on the Council’s progress toward meeting its objectives and to reflect changes in state and federal policy.

1. **What kind of activities does NDSCDD support?**

The Council utilizes strategies such as training, educating policy makers and communities, coalition development, barrier elimination, and demonstration of new approaches to service. These strategies are incorporated into a five-year State Plan that includes, and is based on, a comprehensive review and analysis of services, supports, and other assistance in the State available to individual with developmental disabilities.