

SUPPORTING THE I/DD COMMUNITY THROUGH TIMES OF CHANGE

Highlights from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities' FFY 2024-2025 Impact Report

Real change happens when ideas lead to action. GCDD's 2024–2025 Impact Report showcases how advocates, families, and partners across Georgia are driving systems change, advancing access, and protecting community-based supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Together, these efforts are shaping policies and practices that build more inclusive communities statewide.

GCDD works with partners across Georgia by funding projects that try new ideas and show what works best to help people with I/DD be fully included in their communities. The results help GCDD share information with lawmakers, policymakers, and the public about why including people with I/DD in all parts of community life is important.

Empowering Families and Training Professionals on Special Education Rights

The Georgia Coalition for Equity in Education (GCEE) helps families advocate for students with disabilities in Georgia's schools. With support from GCDD, the coalition of 30 organizations gives families the tools to speak up. Now in its sixth year, GCEE has supported nearly 550 families and trained more than 1,300 educators, attorneys, advocates, and community members. Families learn how to resolve school conflicts and influence policy, while advancing equity in education across Georgia.



Provided support to
550 families



Trained **1,300+**
educators, attorneys,
advocates, and the
community

Advancing Competitive, Inclusive Job Opportunities

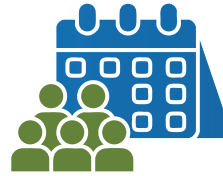
The Advancing Employment Center at the University of Georgia's Institute on Human Development and Disability continues to strengthen competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities. The Center trains and supports staff who help people find jobs and provides policy guidance to the state. This year, it also provided technical assistance on legislation to phase out subminimum wage, the Dignity and Pay Act. Advancing Employment also works with former subminimum wage providers, helping them learn how to support people in fairly paid employment.



Building Leadership and Independence

Sangha Unity Network builds leadership skills for people with I/DD through training that helps participants understand policy, build confidence, and speak up for themselves. Members of the self-advocacy network

Uniting for Change (U4C) put these skills into action at GCDD's Advocacy Days, sharing their stories with lawmakers and influencing policies that affect independence and quality of life.



355 self-advocates participated in **57** U4C events

Policy Wins and Ongoing Advocacy

During this year's legislative session, 462 Georgians with I/DD, family members, providers, and other advocates traveled from across Georgia to the State Capitol for GCDD's Advocacy Days. They met with lawmakers to speak up on important issues that expand opportunities and support community living for people with I/DD. One exciting development was the passage of the Dignity and Pay Act (Senate Bill 55), requiring employers to phase out subminimum wages.

Throughout the year, federal policy changes and budget proposals created uncertainty for the I/DD community. GCDD closely tracked developments related to Medicaid, education, and the federal DD Network, while keeping the community informed and providing tools to connect with federal representatives. Together with partner organizations, GCDD held webinars reaching 375 advocates across Georgia, providing real-time updates on education, disability rights, and other key federal issues.

Dignity and Pay Act

(SB 55) **passed**

Scan QR Code to learn more.



462 advocates attended GCDD's Advocacy Days



375 advocates were kept informed by GCDD on federal policy changes and budget proposals

The complete 2024-2025 Impact Report is found on GCDD's website at www.gcdd.org/annual-reports.
Scan the QR code to view the report.



GCDD's mission is to bring about social and policy changes that promote opportunities for the wide spectrum of diverse Georgians with developmental disabilities and their families to live, learn, lead, work, play and worship in their communities.

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