



# THE GEORGIA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

*We believe in promoting public policy that creates an integrated life within the community for Georgians with developmental disabilities, their families, and all who love them.*

## **REAL SUPPORTS**

### **DD Waivers**

*We believe that Georgia should work to eliminate the waiting list for NOW & COMP waivers. These waivers allow individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for an institutional level of care to receive the supports they need in the community.*

## **REAL LEARNING**

### **Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**

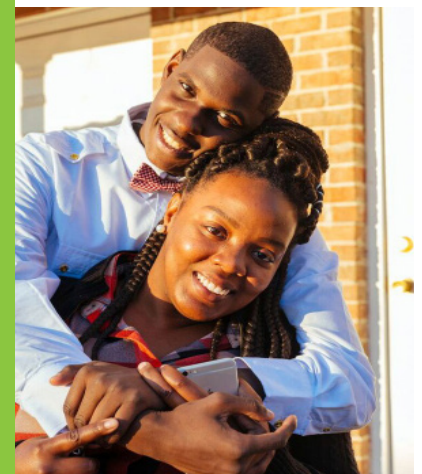
*We believe that all students, regardless of ability, should have access to post-secondary education programs in the state of Georgia. Inclusive post-secondary educational programs provide students with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to education not otherwise available.*



## **REAL SUPPORTS**

### **Medicaid**

*We recognize that Medicaid home- and-community-based services are the lifelines that allow people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to access their communities. We know that any proposal to cut, cap, or reduce Medicaid funding to Georgia will put the lives of people with disabilities at risk.*



## **REAL DECISIONS**

### **Supported Decision-Making**

*We believe that all people, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, have the right and capacity to make their own decisions. We endorse supported decision-making agreements as a method for ensuring people have access to real decisions and a self-determined life.*

## **REAL HOMES**

### **Children's Freedom Initiative**

*We believe that before the state pays to have a child housed in an institutional setting, a parent or guardian must have affirmatively rejected adequate supports to have the child in the home.*

## Caregiver Registry Expansion

*We believe in expanding the caregiver registry passed in the 2018 legislative session to include the caregivers of individuals who use NOW, COMP and ICWP, as well as caregivers of those under age 65 who use SOURCE and CCPS, to ensure all Georgians with disabilities have the same protection and security of a background check for their direct support professionals.*

## The Shortage of DSPs: Workforce Crisis

*We believe that a competent, well-trained, and caring work force of direct support professionals (DSPs) is essential to the health and wellbeing of individuals with disabilities who utilize home-and-community-based services. We support strategies to address this crisis so that people with disabilities can have the care they need.*

## ABLE ACT

*We believe in the importance of the Georgia STABLE program and support efforts to grow the enrollment of qualified individuals in Georgia. STABLE accounts can lead to an increase in independence and financial security for enrollees.*

# GCDD Supports our Partners

### Organ Transplantation

*The Arc Georgia believes that life-saving organ transplants should not be denied because of a person's developmental disability.*

### Aging & Disability Resource Centers

*The Georgia Council on Aging is advocating for \$4 million to strengthen the ADRC statewide network by adding capacity to meet the growing demand for crucial information and access to services.*

*The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities and our statewide network of advocates are eager to work with legislators on our goals and to fulfill our mission.*

*Please do not hesitate to reach out to us.*

*Contact the GCDD Public Policy Team:*



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