



GCDD'S INITIATIVES INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICE FOR GEORGIANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Highlights from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities' 2023-2024 Impact Report

Each year, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) publishes an Impact Report sharing accomplishments from initiatives funded and collaborations with statewide partners that created impactful change for Georgia's developmental disabilities (DD) community. This document is a supplement to the full Impact Report, highlighting some of Council's most powerful impacts during the federal fiscal year 2023-2024.

HOUSING

Better Living Together created a first-of-its kind report about the housing landscape for individuals with DD and how to plan for expanding inclusive housing in Georgia to increase opportunities for individuals to live in the community of their choice.



EDUCATION

Berry College became the first private university in Georgia to launch an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) program which began with the fall 2024 semester. Three students enrolled were already employed with paying jobs on campus during their first semester. Along with broadening educational options statewide, this addition of Berry College signals a growing recognition of the value and potential of students with intellectual disabilities through Georgia's 10 IPSE programs.



Statewide IPSE Programs Increased to

↑ 10

EMPLOYMENT

Advancing Employment and GCDD worked together to transfer two community rehabilitation programs out of using 14(c) certificates (permission to pay subminimum wages). This was further supported by a federal Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment grant awarded to the state to put an end to 14(c) certificates throughout Georgia. The work to end subminimum wages continues.



2 Community Rehabilitation Programs Transferred Out of 14(c) Certificates

TECHNOLOGY

Results of a research study identified barriers and promising opportunities of expanding the use of technology for people with DD. Recommendations for a more equitable future include expanding broadband access, funding enabling technologies, and including individuals in technology discussions.



PUBLIC POLICY

During the 2023-2024 reporting year, the Council's policy advocacy work was at the forefront for public policy gains for the DD community. GCDD's annual Advocacy Days were held during the Winter 2024 legislative session with 321 self-advocates and stakeholders meeting at the Georgia State Capital to educate and inform legislators about issues that are important to the DD community. Public policy gains include:

- IPSE programs received an additional \$1.5 million in funding.
- Passage of SB 384, Georgia as a Model Employer, to increase hiring and retention of people with disabilities. GCDD served as technical advisor on this legislation.
- \$79 million from the Governor's Budget, \$28 million from DBHDD for a total of \$107 million for the rate increase which raised NOW/COMP DSP wages on average from \$10 to \$16 an hour. Additionally, 100 new waivers in 2024.



SB 384 PASSED
Georgia as a
Model Employer

321

Number of Advocates
at GCDD's
Advocacy Days



\$1.5 MILLION
Additional Funding for
IPSE Programs

The complete 2023-2024 Impact Report is found on GCDD's website at <https://gcdd.org/about/annual-reports/2023-2024-annual-impact-report>.

Scan the QR code to the right to check out the website above.



About GCDD: The mission of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) is to bring about social and policy changes that promote opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families to live, learn, lead, work, play and worship in Georgia communities. www.gcdd.org

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