



ALL ABOUT VBPD

OUR UNIQUE ROLE

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities serves as the Commonwealth's Developmental Disabilities Council, as established under the federal "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act" and the state "Virginians with Disabilities Act." VBPD promotes and guides public policy changes and creates opportunities for new approaches in our service delivery systems. We work with public and private partners to identify best practices, new approaches, and collaborative opportunities to increase the independence and inclusion of people with disabilities in our Commonwealth. VBPD is proud to have enriched the lives of Virginians with developmental and other disabilities by investing in over 200 best practices and research grant projects.



MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. Our vision is for Virginians with developmental and other disabilities to direct their own lives and choose how they live, learn, work, and play.

Federal law outlines a unique role for state Councils that includes:

1. Serving as an independent advisor to the Governor and legislature on public policy issues that impact people with developmental disabilities (DD).
2. Engaging with people with disabilities and their allies to understand pressing needs and identify emerging issues impacting the state's DD community.
3. Encouraging citizen engagement and participation so that the voices of people with developmental disabilities are part of policy decisions.
4. Funding innovative and pilot projects—based on data driven strategic planning—that test best practices and inform state and federal policies and practices leading to greater independence and self-sufficiency for people with DD.
5. Charging councils with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with DD.