

# Annual Report 2009

## Who We Are...

The purpose of the GCDD is to engage in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities is the federal administrating and funding agency. A primary activity is to develop a five-year strategic State Plan. After conducting comprehensive re-

search and analysis on issues that affect persons with developmental disabilities, the current State Plan summarizes how services and programs will be structured within the State of Arizona. The essence of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to needed community services, individu-

alized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.



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**GCDD  
2009**

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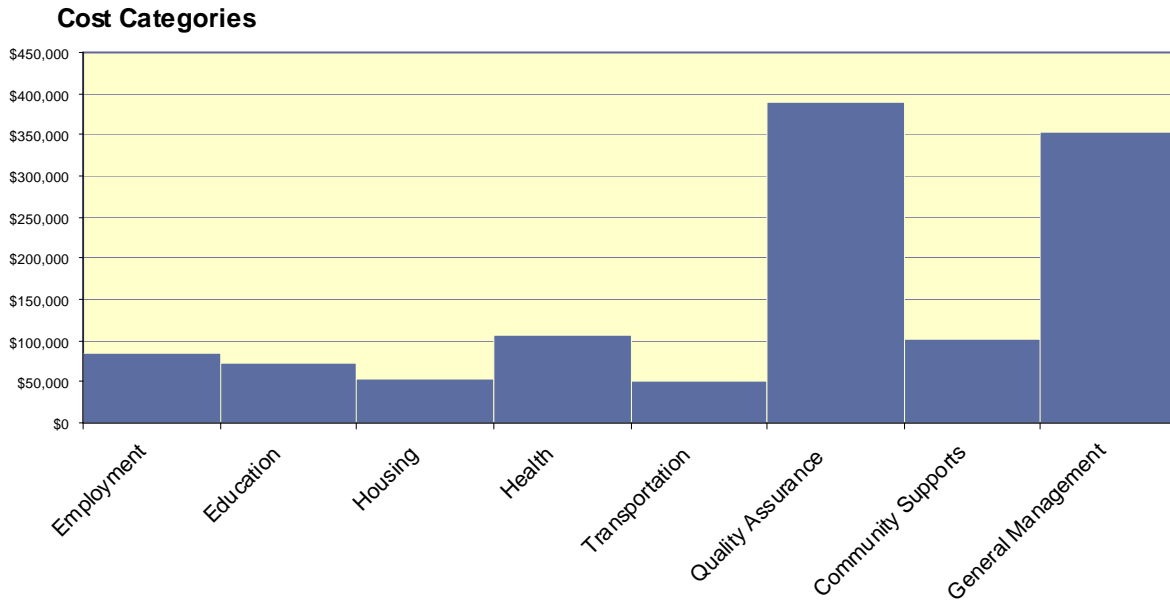
## What is Our Purpose?

The DD Act states that the purpose of State Councils is to "engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that are consistent with the purpose of the DD Act and; contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family-centered, consumer and family-directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-

determination, be independent, be productive and be integrated and included in all facets of community life." Councils on Developmental Disabilities are located in every State and Territory. Council members are appointed by governors to represent and advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Council members serve in a volunteer capacity. More than 60% of these volunteers must be people with developmental disabilities or family members. In

this way, the "customer" of the service system plays an important role in directing Councils' activities. The DD Act charges Councils to identify the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their State or Territory and to develop innovative and cost-effective ways to meet these needs in a manner that upholds the human and civil value of people with developmental disabilities.

# Budget



## Project SEARCH Arizona

Project SEARCH is focused on enabling young adults with disabilities to obtain employment through proper training. Those high school students in their senior year, or adults who may face barriers to employment are eligible. Those participants receive on the job training and employability skills during 3-4

internships through out the year long program. Project SEARCH Arizona is a collaborative partnership among the following organizations: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration, Linkages, Pima County Joint

Technological Education District, SAGE Employment & Community Services, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Sonoran University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Tucson Unified School District, and the University Physicians Hospital.



**Project | SEARCH  
Arizona**

Information provided by:  
Project Search Arizona

## Partners in Policy Making

Twenty years ago, the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities created a groundbreaking, innovative training program called Partners in Policymaking to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. During the past two decades, impor-

tant issues have been confronted and dramatic changes have been made. Partners in Policymaking is based on the idea that policy decisions should be made by people with disabilities and families in partnership with each other and elected and appointed officials. Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona has been selected to replicate the Partners in Policymaking pro-

gram in Arizona. The Arizona program is in it’s 13th year. The program’s ultimate outcomes are increased independence, productivity, integration, inclusion and self determination for all Partners participants and their family members. Graduates of the Arizona program have made substantial contributions to their communities.

## Smart Card

Tri City Partnership, in cooperation with local first responders (Police, Fire and EMS,) have developed the First Responder Smart Card Program™ (FRSCP) This program offers a registration process, alerting first responders that there is a Smart Card on site and an individual with special needs may be at the registered address. FRSCP includes training for first responders on special needs, and how to better recognize and respond to an individual with special needs. This program also

provides training for parents and providers on when to call first responders and what happens once the call is made.

The First Responder Smart Card Program™ can be used by anyone who has a home with an individual with any kind of special needs. Individuals with a mental illness, physical disability, medical condition, or any other condition that a first responder should be aware of can register program.

[azcommunityactionteams.org](http://azcommunityactionteams.org)



## Inter Professional Training Day

Two hundred and forty medical, nursing, social work, public health and law students participated in the second Inter-Professional Training Day on Disability sponsored by the Sonoran UCEDD, College of Medicine and the GCDD. It was required curriculum for the students of these different University of Arizona colleges. During the teaching day, the students first heard a key

note speaker on disability, followed by a video showing an adult with a developmental disability - Autism Spectrum Disorder- in her home environment. The students then worked together on case problems involving a child and an adult. Each problem identified a nursing, service system, legal or other issues that the students had to collaborate to solve. The students then debriefed as a

large group and shared ideas and perspectives on working with people with disabilities. Participants then heard from a writer who has a disability and has written on her experiences with the health care system. The evaluations were positive and for many students this provided one of the first times they had the opportunity to worked together with other students from other disciplines.

## Legislative Awareness Day

The GCDD held their annual Legislative Awareness Day on March 10, 2009. The event hosted sixty participating organizations that setup various information booths.

In attendance were individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, legislators, service providers, self-advocates, and other mem-

bers of the community. Attendees were able to interact with legislators, obtain information regarding services available to individuals with developmental disabilities, and share their individual stories.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

- James Baldwin



## Goals for Change:

Councils are given powerful direction and broad authority to set priorities in their individual states by the DD Act. Councils work toward public policies that promote several goals for people with developmental disabilities, including:

**Self Determination-** Activities that result in individuals with developmental disabilities having the ability and opportunity to communicate and make personal decisions, exercise control over the type and intensity of supports and services they receive, the authority to control resources, opportunities to participate in and contribute to their communities, and support to advocate for themselves and others.

**Inclusion-** Acceptance and encouragement of the presence and participation of individuals with developmental disabilities, by individuals without disabilities, in social, educational, work, and community activities.

**Integration-** Exercise of the equal right of individuals with developmental disabilities to access and use the same community resources as are available to and used by other individuals.

"I chose not to place "DIS",  
in my ability."

-Robert M. Hensel

## GCDD Sunset Information

By Executive Order Governor Brewer established the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) on September 3, 2009.

This is the successor organization to the GCDD which was sunsetted by the State Legislature and disbanded on July 1, 2009. By that order, membership of the Council was reconstituted.

The DDPC was established pursuant to the DD Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-402). The purpose of the Council is to engage in advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities is the federal administering agency.

A primary activity of the Council is to develop a five-year State Plan.

After conducting comprehensive research and analysis on issues that affect persons with developmental disabilities, the State Plan summarizes how services and programs (e.g. employment, health, housing, recreation, child-care, etc.) should be structured within the State of Arizona.

The essence of the Act is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.



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