

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

A Guide to Common Acronyms for Developmental Disabilities

Bureaucratic shorthand – you’ll hear a lot of it in the developmental disability community. It will come from people working in state and federal agencies, and you’ll hear it when talking with service providers, individuals with disabilities and others in the community.

It’s one of the more important aspects of your education as a person with an interest in developmental disability – “learning the language.”

What Is “Bureaucratic Shorthand”?

It’s the abbreviated terms (called “acronyms”) used

frequently by those who work with people with developmental disabilities. GCDD, for example, is the term we use in Arkansas when referring to the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities. It’s one of the more than 100 commonly used forms of bureaucratic shorthand you’ll find in this guide. Be aware: you’ll run into many others.

Why Do All of This?

The same abbreviation can mean different things to different people. Learning the ABCs of developmental disabilities is critical to formulating the right questions to get the right answers.

If you run across a bureaucratic shorthand term that is not in this guide:

- Explain to the person you’re talking with that you do not understand what the abbreviation means
- Write the abbreviation down
- Ask the person for an exact definition
- Write the definition down
- Practice using the abbreviation in conversation
- Let GCDD staff know so that we may include it in the next update of this guide.

Acronyms Associated with Developmental Disabilities

AAIDD – American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

AAPD – American Association of People with Disabilities

ABA – Architectural Barriers Act of 1968

ACDD – Accreditation Council on Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

+ **ACE** – Arkansas Department of Career Education

▪ **ACF** – Administration of Children and Families

▪ **ACL** – Administration for Community Living

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

ADAAG – Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines

ADD – Attention Deficit Disorder

+ **ADE** – Arkansas Department of Education

+ **ADH** – Arkansas Department of Health

ADHD – Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

▪ **AIDD** – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

▪ **AoD** – Administration on Disabilities

+ **APS** – Adult Protection Service (part of the Division of Aging and Adult Services at DHS)

+ **ARS** – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (a division of ACE)

ARSILC – Arkansas State Independent Living Council

AT – Assistive Technology

▪ **ATBCB** – Architecture and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board

AUCD – Association of University Centers on Disabilities

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CAP – Client Assistance Program

CCD – Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

▪ **CDC** – Center for Disease Control

CEC – Council for Exceptional Children

CIE – Competitive Integrated Employment

CIL – Center(s) for Independent Living

▪ **CMS** – Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services

+ **CMS** – Children’s Medical Services (a division of DHS)

CP – Cerebral Palsy

CPS – Child Protective Services

DD – Developmental Disabilities or Developmentally Delayed

+ **DDS** – Developmental Disabilities Services (a division of DHS)

+ **DHS** – Arkansas Department of Human Services

▪ **DOJ** – U.S. Department of Justice

DRA – Disability Rights Arkansas (state’s protection and advocacy organization)

▪ **ED** – U.S. Department of Education

▪ **EEOC** – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

EI – Early Intervention

EPSDT – Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act

ESY – Extended School Year for Special Education Services

FAPE – Free and Appropriate Public Education

FERPA – Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

+ **GCDD** – Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities

HCBS – Home and Community Based Services

HDC – Human Development Center

▪ **HHS** – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

HSRI – Human Services Research Institute

▪ **HUD** – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

IAP – Individualized Accommodation Plan

iCAN – Increasing Capabilities Access Network (state’s assistive tech program)

Acronyms Associated with Developmental Disabilities

- **ICC** – Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention

ICF – Intermediate Care Facility

ID/DD – Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability

IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

IDEA 04 – 2004 Amendments to the IDEA

IEE – Independent Educational Evaluation

IEP – Individual Education Program (or Plan)

IFSP – Individual Family Service Plan

IHE – Institutions of Higher Education

IHP – Individualized Habilitation Plan

ILC – Independent Living Center

IPII – Independence, Productivity, Integration, Inclusion

JAN – Job Accommodation Network

LD – Learning Disability

LEA – Local Education Agency

LRE – Least Restrictive Environment

LTSS – Long Term Supports and Services

MCH – Maternal and Child Health

NACDD – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

NCD – National Council on Disability

NCIL – National Council on Independent Living

NCLB – No Child Left Behind Act (now known as ESSA)

NDRN – National Disability Rights Network

NIDRR – National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

NOD – National Organization on Disability

- **OCR** – Office of Civil Rights
- **OSEP** – Office of Special Education Programs (an office of ED)
- **OSERS** – Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (an office of ED)

OT – Occupational Therapy (or Therapist)

PL – Public Law (federal)

P&A – Protection and Advocacy

PAIR – Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights

PAS – Personal Assistance Services

PASS – Plan to Achieve Self-Support

PASSE – Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity

PT – Physical Therapy (or Therapist)

PwD – Persons With Disabilities

PWoD – Persons Without Disabilities

- **RSA** – Rehabilitation Services Administration

SABE – Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

SEA – State Education Agency

SILC – Statewide Independent Living Council

- **SSA** – Social Security Administration

SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance, Title II

SSI – Supplemental Security Income

TA – Technical Assistance

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (formerly AFDC)

TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury

TEFRA – Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act

TTY – Text Telephone

U.S.C. – United States Code

UCPA – United Cerebral Palsy Associations

- + **UCEDD** – University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service

- **VA** – Veterans Administration

- + **WIC** – Women, Infants and Children (ADH's nutrition program)

WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

▪ Federal Agencies

+ State Agencies



Governor's Council on
Developmental Disabilities

inclusion. integration. independence.

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