



The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Network

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD or Council) works with its partners to implement the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act in Arkansas to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families participate in the design of services that allow increased opportunities to live and work in their community of choice.

The Council works to improve the independence and productivity of Arkansans with developmental disabilities and to ensure their integration into the community. Key activities include:

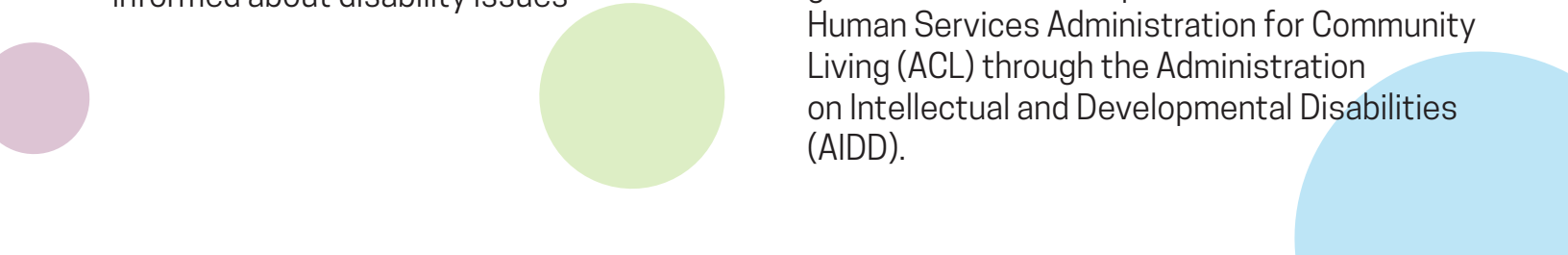
- Increasing and strengthening self-advocacy participation across the state
- Supporting programs to identify and remove barriers to information, services and support
- Advocating for policy changes to increase competitive, integrated employment
- Developing and supporting coalitions
- Encouraging advocacy to keep policymakers informed about disability issues

The Council consists of 23 members, appointed by the governor. Members include:

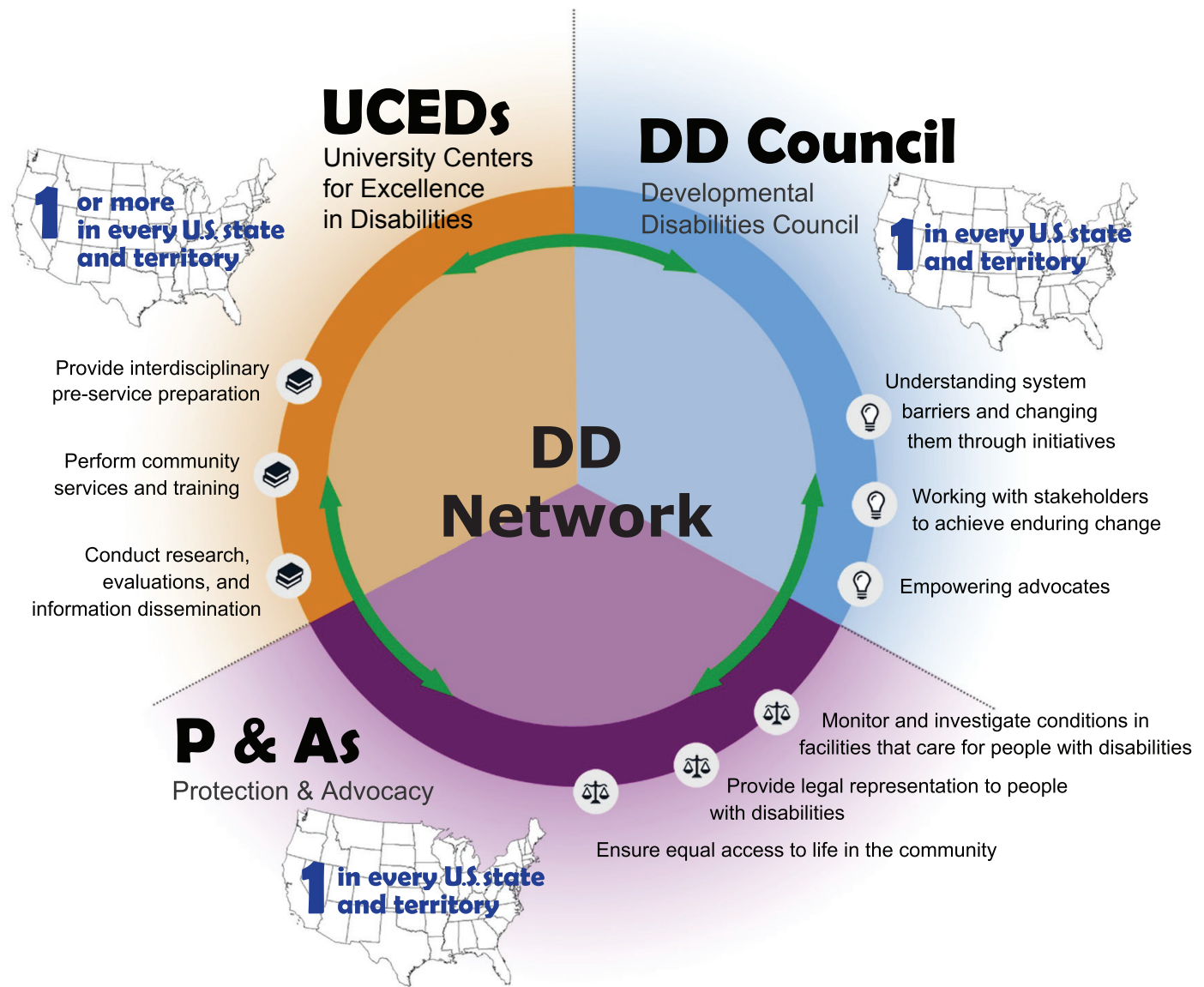
- Individuals with developmental disabilities
- Family members of individuals with developmental disabilities
- Directors of state agencies that serve people with disabilities
- Representatives from nonprofit and private organizations that provide services and support for people with disabilities

The Council promotes integration, inclusion and independence for Arkansans with developmental disabilities. We do so by identifying the most pressing needs of the DD community in our state and addressing those needs by conducting outreach, fostering change and supporting capacity-building efforts.

State councils on developmental disabilities, such as GCDD, are federally funded, self-governing organizations. GCDD is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL) through the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).



The DD Act directs the DD Network Partners to collectively promote community integration.



The Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Network

The Council, the Protection and Advocacy Organization (P&A), and the University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities (UCED) are the three partners in the DD Network. Please see graphic on Page 2.

While each entity serves specific purposes, each was established with overlapping goals to facilitate collaboration and interconnectivity. This structure allows each to work cross-functionally to achieve the core goals of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act: self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of the community for people with developmental disabilities.

Arkansas DD Network Contacts

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

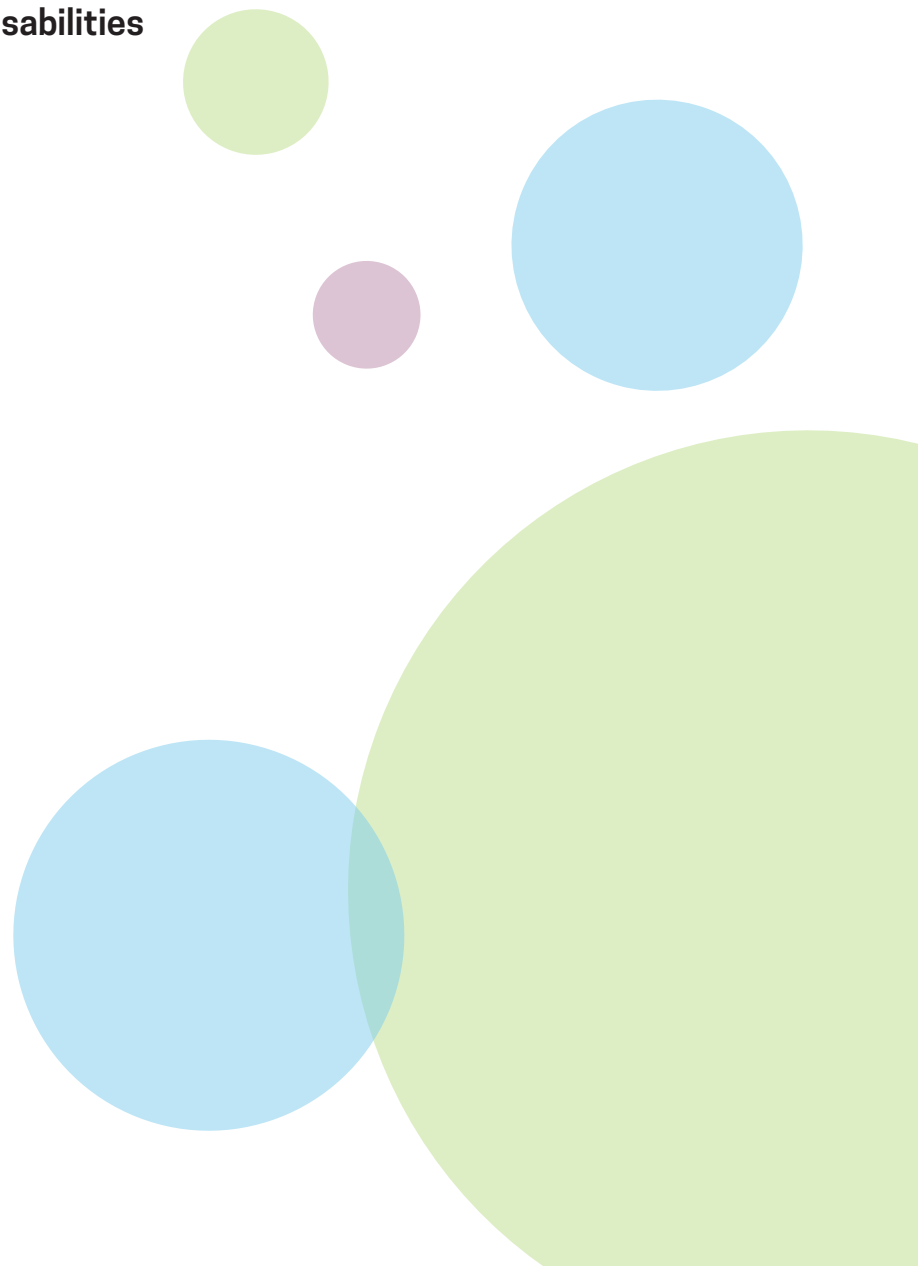
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ARKANSAS

Inclusion. Integration. Independence.

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