



Governor's Council on  
**Developmental  
Disabilities**  
ARKANSAS

## Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2023

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# TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

## *About the Arkansas Council*

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Arkansas works to improve the independence and productivity of Arkansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and to ensure their inclusion and 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 supports
- 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 intellectual and 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 is supported by an administrative staff including an Executive Director, a Deputy Director, a Program Coordinator, a Finance & Operations Coordinator, and an Administrative Specialist. Staff carries out the day-to-day operations to implement the state plan.

State councils on developmental disabilities are federally funded, self-governing organizations. GCDD is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL) through the Administration on Disability's Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD).

## ***From the Director***

June 3, 2024



On behalf of the Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. It shares the multiple achievements of the Council, Council Staff, and our valued Sub Grantee partners. Fiscal Year 2023 saw a continued partnership with four Sub Grantees:

- Arkansas Support Network's **Charting the LifeCourse**
- Central Arkansas Disability Services' **Community Initiative for Employment First**
- Disability Rights Arkansas' **Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy**
- Partners for Inclusive Communities' **Marshallese Interpretation for Community Inclusion**

The work done by these Sub Grantees has allowed the Council to make meaningful progress toward the goals of the Council's Five-Year Plan:

**Goal One:** People with developmental disabilities and their families will be active in advocacy activities that improve their lives, and the lives of others and the service system.

**Goal Two:** People with developmental disabilities and their families will have improved access to community supports and services.

**Goal Three:** The Council will work to improve competitive, integrated employment of Arkansans with developmental disabilities.

As Executive Director of the GCDD, I continue to be grateful for the privilege of serving the Council and the people of Arkansas. The Council and staff are honored to continue working towards the inclusion, integration, and independence of Arkansans with disabilities.

Respectfully,

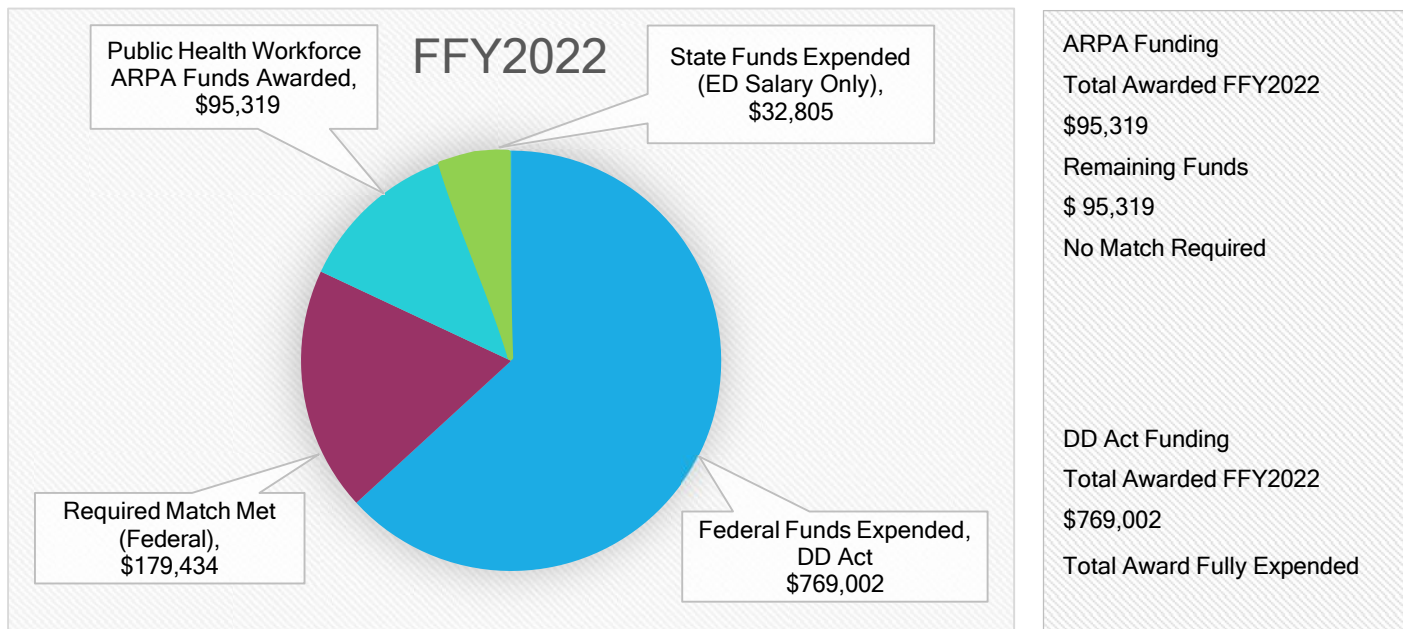
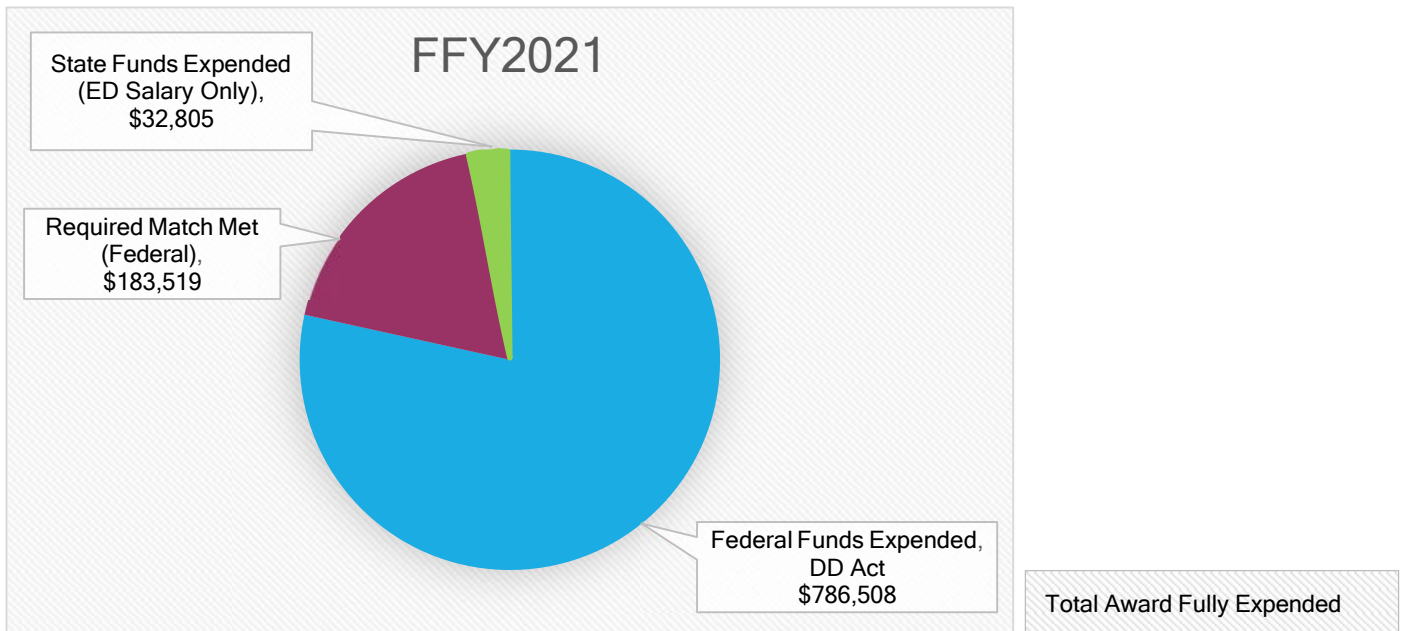
Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director  
Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Arkansas

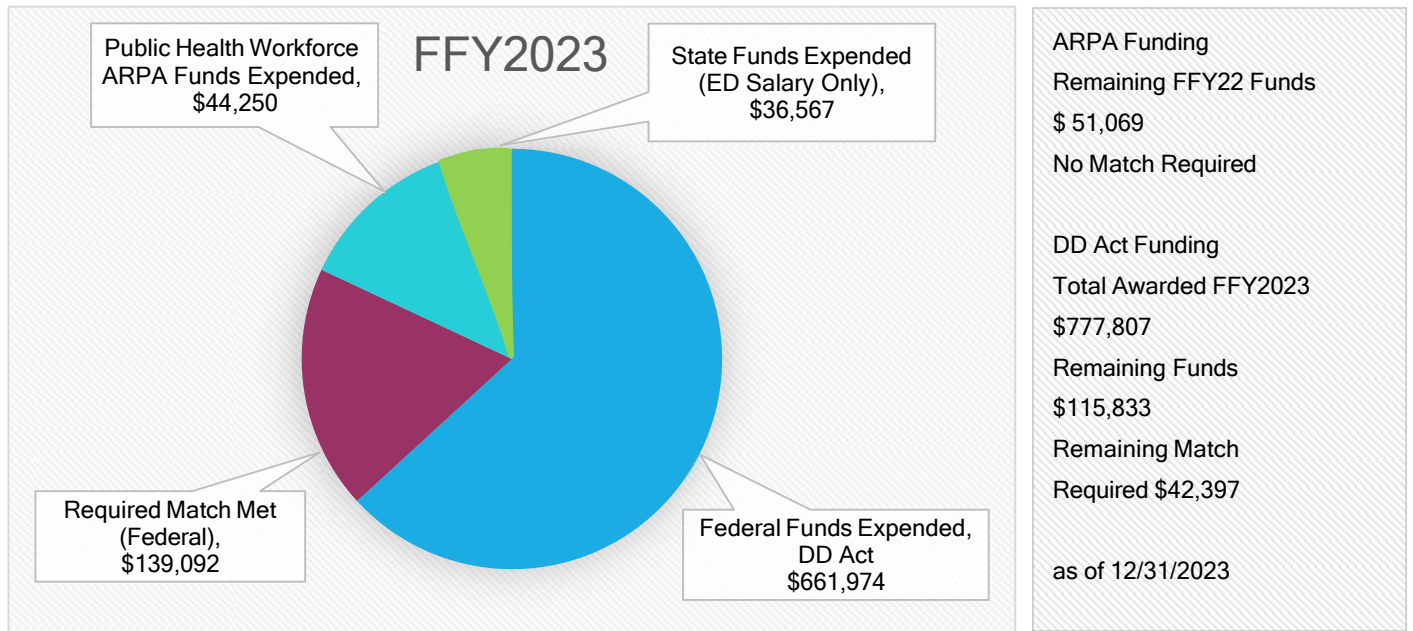
# FINANCIALS

## Council Financial Information

The GCDD is funded under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, known as the DD Act, (Public Law 106-402). GCDD’s DD Act funding is administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the ACL and is accessed through our designated state agency (DSA), the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

The Council reports annually, on three (3) fiscal years of finances.





### **Federal Source of Funds**

CFDA # 93.630

Funding Source: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/Administration for Community Living

Title of Program: (SCDD) DD Act State Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Award Authority: P.L. 106-402 (DD Act)

Title of Program: (SCPH) Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network: DD Councils

Award Authority: P.L. 117-2 and P.L. 116-131 (ARPA)

Grantee: Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (GCDD's DSA)

### **Council Subgrant Funding FY23**

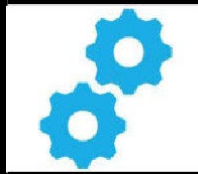
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT EXPENDED
Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy	\$377,353.88
Charting the LifeCourse	\$108,313.10
Community Initiative for Employment First	\$ 70,498.08
Marshallese Interpreting for Community Inclusion	\$ 98,387.30

These subgrants completed project spending during this reporting period.

# NOTABLE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

## Program Performance Report

The Program Performance Report (PPR) is the required annual federal report DD Councils submit to the Administration on Disability (AOD)/Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) that describes the DD Council's progress toward achieving the goals and objectives within the DD Council 5-year plan. The purpose of the PPR is to document DD Council results, outcomes, and impacts of Council work that occurred during the previous federal fiscal year.



## Federal Performance Measures - Indicators

The Administration on Disability's Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) sets the federal performance measures (PMs) for state councils on DD. These are reported in the PPR (see PPR to view all PMs). Notable indicators for this reporting period are:

### Indicator

Number of English-speaking people with developmental disabilities & their family members who participated in Council supported activities to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, others, and/or systems.

**635**

**Indicator**

Number of other people trained/educated through council-supported initiatives.

**370****Indicator**

Number of systems change activities: policy/procedures created/changed, promising practices created / supported, best practices created / supported.

**65****Indicator**

The number of Marshallese and Hispanic/Latino family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and how to access services.

**421****Indicator**

Graduates of Partners in Policymaking Arkansas.

**5**

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**STATE PLAN**

The state plan required no amendments during the FY23 reporting period.



## FUNDED PROJECTS FY2023

**The Charting the Life Course Project** – To increase the capacity of individuals to navigate their own life, as well as increasing the capacity of parents/caregivers capacity to support these efforts; improve the individuals with developmental disabilities self-advocacy abilities, as well as their parents/caregivers abilities to support them and advocate for them when appropriate; develop the skills of individuals with developmental disabilities, their parents and caregivers, to support others to become self-advocates to participate and be involved in the improvements of the service delivery system policy and practices. This project serves and supports English-speaking individuals and families as well as Marshallese & Latino/Hispanic families who have limited English proficiency, have intellectual & developmental disabilities (IDD), and encounter cultural and language barriers to information & services within the community. COMPETITIVE AWARD (RFP 2022-006-GCDDAR). Subgrantee: Arkansas Support Network

**The Arkansas Community Initiative for Employment First Project** – To mainstream the concept of Employment First in Arkansas; build the capacity to train and educate key stakeholders who support the intellectual and developmental disability population in Arkansas to gain competitive employment in their communities; promote the policy that employment in the general workforce, for at least minimum wage, should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems. COMPETITIVE AWARD (RFP 2022-006-GCDDAR). Subgrantee: Central Arkansas Disability Services

**The Marshallese Interpreting for Community Inclusion (MICI) Project** – To address language barriers and equitable access to disability services in the Marshallese community by providing appropriately trained interpreters who also serve as cultural liaisons for information on cross-cultural views on disability and accessing services. MICI will strengthen community capacity and support project sustainability by training a team of experienced interpreters, expanding access to current interpreter training, increasing the number of training sessions provided to disability service providers, and increasing networking opportunities between the Marshallese community and disability service providers. COMPETITIVE AWARD (RFP 2022-006-GCDDAR). Subgrantee: University of Arkansas, Partners for Inclusive Communities

**The Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy Project** – To create an active alliance of advocacy programs that work together to give self-advocates, parents and peer advocates and local & state leaders the tools they need to be active within the disability advocacy movement; the project will provide leadership training, organizational training & support and disability advocacy education. Disability Rights Arkansas and the GCDD Arkansas will work through the Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy (AADA) to operate and manage the Self-Advocacy Network Development Program, the Community of Champions Program and the Partners in Policymaking Arkansas Program. SOLICITED COLLABORATION (RFP 2022-007-DDNTWK-AADA). Subgrantee: Disability Rights Arkansas

# 2022-2026 STATE PLAN - ARKANSAS

## (10/01/2021-09/30/2026)

The Council's federally approved Five-year State Plan includes the following Areas of Emphasis and Goals:

### 1 *Quality Assurance/ Advocacy*

**Goal One:** People with developmental disabilities and their families will be active in advocacy activities that improve their lives, and the lives of others and the service system.

### 2 *Informal and Formal Services and Supports*

**Goal Two:** People with developmental disabilities and their families will have improved access to community supports and services.

### 3 *Employment:*

**Goal Three:** The Council will work to improve competitive, integrated employment of Arkansans with developmental disabilities.

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (10/01/2022-09/30/2023) was the second year of the current five-year plan. Visit our [webpage](#) to see more state plan details.

