



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) oversees the implementation of 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 community services that allow increased opportunities to live and work locally.

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:

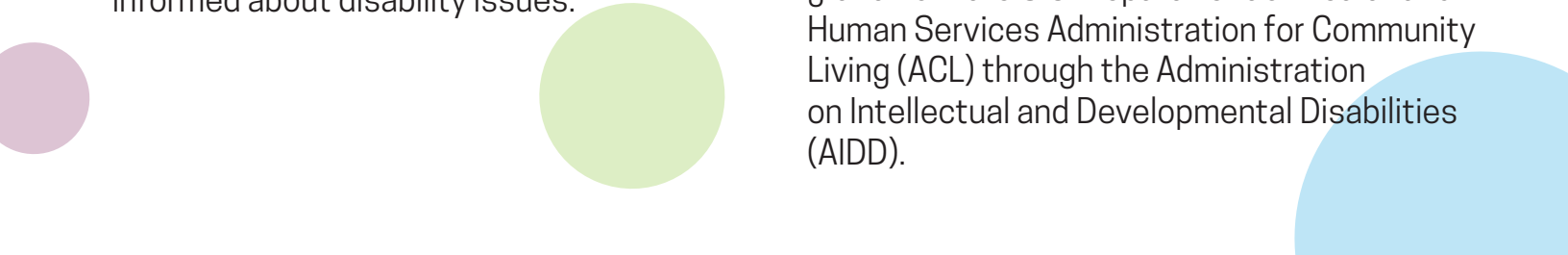
- Increasing and strengthening self-advocacy participation across the state
- Supporting programs to identify and remove barriers to information, services and support
- Advocating for policy changes to increase competitive, integrated employment
- Developing and supporting coalitions
- Encouraging advocacy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

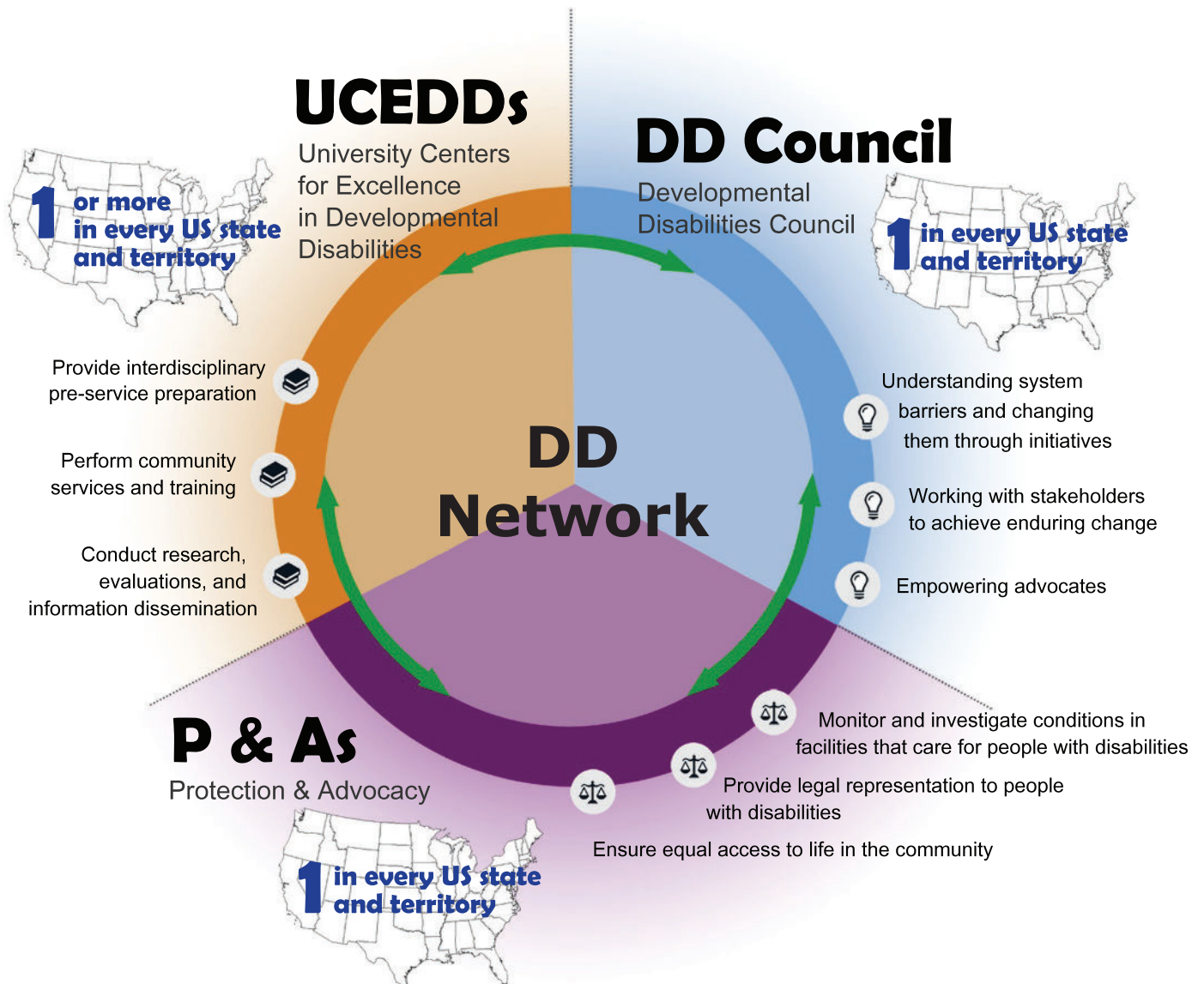
The Council promotes integration, inclusion and independence for Arkansans with developmental disabilities. We do so by identifying the most pressing needs of the DD community in our state and addressing those needs by conducting outreach, fostering change and supporting capacity-building efforts.

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.

This toolkit highlights the UCEDDs role and identifies the possibilities for collaboration around this activity.



AUCD

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
Research, Education, Service

The Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Network

The Council, the Protection and Advocacy Organization (P&A), and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) are the three main 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.

Also active in the Arkansas DD Network are various state agencies such as the Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities Services and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services; other councils, commissions and task forces such as the Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Employment First Task Force; and many direct service providers.

Arkansas DD Network Contacts

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ARKANSAS

Inclusion. Integration. Independence.

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