

The Arc of Colorado would like to introduce you to federally funded agencies that are authorized to serve you in the state of Colorado. The first agency we are highlighting is the

COLORADO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNCIL

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Planning Council is a federally funded agency through the Developmental Disabilities Act that is authorized every five years. The Planning Council is to work on behalf of families and individuals with disabilities to assure planning, legislative and policy analysis, and research activities.

The two basic activities of the Council are 1.) legislative and public policy/systems change efforts and 2.) granting of monies for pilot projects that reflect unmet needs in Colorado with the hope of replicating those that are successful. There is up to \$36,000 in the budget to fund the Consumer Involvement Fund for family members and persons with disabilities to attend training events and conferences up to \$400.00. YOU are encouraged to apply. Unfortunately, the fund is so popular that typically only half of the requests are able to be funded but don't let this discourage you from applying.

The Planning Council (DDPC) strongly supports legislation, policy, and grant initiatives that reflect community life and school inclusion. Not only does their mission include a vision for community living, but the DD Act also strongly supports efforts on deinstitutionalization, supported employment, inclusion, anti-aversive efforts, customer control of supports via self-determination, and living in the community rather than in nursing homes and other institutional settings.

Boards and Commissions via the Governor fund the Council with the use of population/poverty formulas that allow for six staff persons who are directed by 24 Council members who are appointed by the Governor. They are mandated to have 60% of the members be family members or persons with disabilities.

The efforts of the Planning Council can be easily side-tracked, as there are so many issues that involve the need for system change, thus clear goals have been set within employment, education, and community integration in a Three Year Plan. It is imperative that their efforts are focused given the current political and cultural climate as system change has so many obstacles in the way.

Lastly, the Planning Council does co-sponsor training events in amounts ranging from one to three thousand dollars. Proposals are read each January and June and are funded shortly thereafter. As with the Consumer Involvement Fund, the requests frequently exceed the amount of money in the budget.

If you would like more information, please call the DD Planning Council at 720-941-0176 or you are welcome to e-mail the Executive Director at Marcia.tewell@state.co.us, if you have questions.