



The Virginia Board (VBPD) is the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council for Virginia. Every state and territory has a DD Council, which advises policymakers on legislation affecting the lives of people with developmental and other disabilities.

Appointed by the Governor, each member of the Board (VBPD) serves because of his or her background—representatives from transportation, education, private industry, and people with disabilities, as well as family members—comprise the 39-member Board.

Why does the Board exist? As part of the federal DD Act, state DD Councils were established to promote long-term change, promote advocacy, and focus on issues related to housing, transportation, employment, education, and community living, among others. When people with developmental and other disabilities have supports and accommodations, they can be more independent and live in their local communities.

What is a developmental disability? A developmental disability (DD) occurs before the age of 22, and may be cognitive, physical, or both. Developmental disabilities result in limitations on self-care, communication, learning, mobility, or being able to work or live independently. Examples include autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, hearing loss, muscular dystrophy, or visual impairment.

Vision:

To create a Commonwealth where people with developmental and other disabilities can live, learn, work, and play.

Mission:

To create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.



www.VaBoard.org

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Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

Want to know more?

If you are interested in learning more about activities of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, please visit our website at www.VaBoard.org and sign up to receive e-news updates, view videos, or see the latest information on Facebook.

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How does the Board impact Virginians? The Board has three main focus areas: advocacy, policy, and investments through grants and contracts.

Advocacy occurs through training, support, and sharing information to strengthen local and statewide organizations, committees, workgroups, and boards. Developing youth leaders and self advocates, and encouraging those individuals to network and collaborate, is part of the Board's advocacy. The Board educates citizens about living conditions, health, finances, and behavioral challenges for people with disabilities, as well as available services.

The Board serves as an independent advisor to the Governor, Secretariats, legislators, and other policymakers on disability issues. Staff of the Board participate in statewide councils, advisory committees, work groups, task forces, and educational programs.

By investing federal monies into projects that promote changes in the systems that serve people with disabilities, the Board's grant investments touch thousands of people in Virginia. Since 1984, the Board has funded 270+ projects through grants and contracts, making a total financial commitment of more than \$18.2 million.

Meetings of the Board are held quarterly in Richmond, although Board members live across the Commonwealth. A staff of ten full-time state employees support the Board in Richmond, Virginia.