

Free Information and Referral

The Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network and the Tennesseans it serves are supported by a statewide information and referral service, a project of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. Our Network organizations also provide information and referral.

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

Mission

To provide information and referral in English and Spanish to persons with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates

Activities

- Toll-free phone access to experienced disability information specialists
- A website with extensive state and national information resources, including a database of 1,600 Tennessee agencies easily searched by county and type of service and a Disability Calendar of Tennessee and national events
- Tennessee Disability Services and Supports Directory covering East, Middle, and West Tennessee for purchase

Contact

Voice Nashville (615) 322-8529
Voice Español Nashville (615) 400-4422
Tennessee toll-free (1-800) 640-INFO [4636]
Tennessee Español (615) 322-7830
Fax (615) 936-5010
E-mail TNPathfinder@vanderbilt.edu
Website www.familypathfinder.org

Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee
Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
University of Tennessee Boling Center
for Developmental Disabilities
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence
in Developmental Disabilities



Working with you! Working for you!

Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network

‘Disability is a natural part of the human experience . . .’
—The Developmental Disabilities
Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

Four statewide organizations in Tennessee partner with one another and with individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to ensure that they receive the services and supports they need—and jointly they take part in planning those services. Together we are working to promote principles of—

Independence Inclusion
Integration Productivity
Self-Determination

The federal Developmental Disabilities Act creates State Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems, and University Centers for Excellence in every state and U.S. territory. The Act guides each agency’s activities and promotes efforts of these agencies to work collaboratively on statewide issues. The four Tennessee Network members are part of this national network, which is supported by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Health and Human Services.

Developmental Disability

A developmental disability is a condition that is significant and ongoing, begins before age 22, and substantially limits functioning in daily activities of living. Examples include autism, brain or spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, intellectual disabilities, Prader-Willi syndrome, spina bifida, Williams syndrome. There are approximately 4.5 million individuals with developmental disabilities in the United States.

The Network also serves persons with all types of disabilities, including those whose disabilities occur after age 22.

How the Network Works Together

The principles of the Developmental Disabilities Act unite our organizations as a network. The Developmental Disabilities Act states that, with support, individuals with developmental disabilities can:

- Make informed choices and decisions about their lives
- Live in homes and communities where they can exercise their rights as citizens
- Pursue meaningful and productive lives
- Contribute to their families, communities, states, and nation
- Have friendships and relationships with other persons
- Live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights
- Achieve full integration and inclusion in society, in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of each individual.

The agencies of the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Network work independently and together to achieve these goals for Tennesseans with developmental disabilities and their families. We accomplish more by working collectively. We have joined together to improve transition services in Tennessee for students with disabilities in special education, and we have developed guidelines for emergency preparedness for citizens with disabilities.

For current information on joint projects, products, and other announcements, visit the Network website at www.tennddnetwork.org

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee (DLAC)

Each state has a Protection & Advocacy System to empower, protect, and advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities. DLAC is a federally mandated agency funded 100% by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of Education and the Social Security Administration.

Mission

To advocate for the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities to ensure that they have an equal opportunity to be productive and respected members of our society.

Activities

- Information and referral
- Individual advocacy
- Systems advocacy
- Public policy advocacy
- Trainings
- Presentations
- Monitoring
- Investigations
- Mediation
- Negotiation
- Collaboration
- Legal representation

Contact

Voice (1-800) 342-1660
TTY: (1-888) 852-2852
Español (1-800) 287-9636 x 26
Fax (615) 298-2046
E-mail GetHelp@DLACTN.org
Website www.DLACTN.org

Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Tennessee Council is an independent state office that works to improve disability policies and practices in Tennessee.

Mission

To provide leadership to ensure independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the community through promotion of systems change

Activities

The Council undertakes activities directly or awards grants to other groups to address priorities of the Council. Major activities include:

- Informing policymakers and lawmakers about disability issues
- Systems design, redesign, and improvement
- Demonstration of new approaches to services
- Coalition development and citizen participation
- Outreach, training, and technical assistance
- Leadership Training Institute:
 - Partners in Policy Marking™
 - Youth Leadership Forum

Contact

Voice (615) 532-6615
TTY (615) 741-4562
Fax (615) 532-6964
E-mail tnddc@state.tn.us
Website www.state.tn.us/cdd

University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service support interdisciplinary training, exemplary services, research, technical assistance, and information dissemination.

Mission

To promote, support, and enhance the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families in the community.

Activities

- Interdisciplinary clinics for children and families covering entire spectrum of neurodevelopmental disabilities, including attention deficit hyper-activity disorder, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual and related disabilities
- Interdisciplinary graduate-level leadership training in neurodevelopmental disabilities
- Family-centered programs supporting children in relative care and in state custody
- Parenting programs and sibling groups; support groups for children with Asperger's disorder and for adults with intellectual disabilities
- Broad collaboration with community advocates and intervention consortia
- Sponsorship of and presentations at local, state, regional, and national disability-related conferences
- Support of the Center on Disability and Employment, University of Knoxville, in provision of training, resources, and support for employment and lifespan issues

Contact

Voice (901) 448-6511
Toll-free (888) 572-2249
TTY (901) 448-4677
Fax (901) 448-7097
E-mail egibson@utmem.edu
Website www.utmem.edu/bcdd

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Vanderbilt University

Mission

To provide innovative leadership in education, research, and service to promote the independence, self-determination, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities and to support their families.

Activities

- Early intervention and education programs: Reading Clinic, Henderson Training Series for Educators, Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Late Talkers Clinic
- Support for individuals with disabilities and families: Family Outreach Center, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, Sibshops, National Sibling Research Consortium, and Post-Secondary Training
- Health and mental health: Maternal and Infant Health Outreach Workers collaboration, Treatment and Research Institute on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Behavior Analysis Clinic, and Down Syndrome Clinic collaboration
- Recreation and arts: summer camps for children, youth, and young adults with autism, Down syndrome, Williams syndrome, and other developmental disabilities; exhibits of art by persons with disabilities and art workshops

Contact

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Toll-free (1-866) 322-VUKC [8852]
TTY (1-800) 273-9595
Fax (615) 343-5737
E-mail kc@vanderbilt.edu
Website kc.vanderbilt.edu