



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

100 State Street, suite 342
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-0206

(802) 828-1310
vtddc@vermont.gov
www.ddc.vermont.gov

2021 Legislative Platform

1. Independent Advocate for Developmental Services

Vermont needs an independent Developmental Services Advocate, similar to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Service that is available to people served by the Choices for Care program. The DS Advocate would: receive, track, and address individual complaints; educate recipients of service about their rights; and advocate for administrative and legislative changes that uphold the right of individuals in the DS System to make informed decisions about where and how they live.

2. Protect Medicaid with an Independent Evaluation of the All Payer Accountable Care Organization Model Agreement Before Renewal

Vermont must protect its Medicaid Program and ensure that there are adequate funds to address the healthcare and long-term support needs of Vermonters with disabilities.

The legislature must lay the groundwork this session for potential renewal of the All Payer Accountable Care (ACO) Model Agreement in 2022 by requiring an independent evaluation of the All Payer Model's return on investment and impact on the health of Vermonters.

The Legislature should not give additional Medicaid investment dollars to support hospital-based delivery system reform until an equal amount of Medicaid investment funds are given to support the delivery system reform needs of home and community-based care providers.

3. Eugenics Apology and Reconciliation Process

The Legislature should apologize for the harm done by Vermont's eugenics law to indigenous Vermonters, Vermonters of color, and Vermonters with disabilities.

In addition to a formal apology, Vermont must create a process to identify and address the injuries inflicted under Vermont's eugenics law and to raise awareness about the ways in which ableism, racism, and prejudice against indigenous groups continues today.

4. Reduce Exclusionary Discipline in Schools

Vermont needs to support students with disabilities and BIPOC students by reducing the use of exclusionary discipline, restraint and seclusion in Vermont's schools.

As first steps, the Agency of Education shall develop a dashboard to indicate the effectiveness of existing rules and regulations. The data will be updated and reviewed consistently and provided annually to the Legislature.

5. Reduce Health Disparities

Vermont must eliminate health disparities based on race, ethnicity, disability, income, and LGBTQ status. The creation of a Health Equity Office within State government is an important first step.