



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



**Vermont Developmental
Disabilities Council**
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1. QUALITY FIRST!

- **Vermont needs an Independent Developmental Services Advocate** similar to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.
- **Vermont's home and community-based service system is in crisis.** Increased oversight must be funded.
- **Play by the rules.** Require the Agency of Human Services to report its compliance status with all applicable CMS rules annually.

2. MEDICAID JUSTICE!



- **Invest Medicaid dollars fairly** to meet the needs of Vermonters with disabilities.
- **Stabilize and sustain the home and community-based services** workforce with adequate annual rate increases.



3. HOUSING FOR ALL!



- **Fund new housing for adults with disabilities.** Act 186 of 2022 provided seed funding—now we need funds for the housing itself.
- **Include people with disabilities in all new housing initiatives.** Include people with disabilities in programs for landlords who provide housing to housing challenged groups.



4. INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS!

- **Support students with disabilities by reducing the use of exclusionary discipline,** restraint and seclusion.
- The DD Council joins with VT Coalition for Disability Rights, Vermont Family Network and other disability advocates to **urge new legislation adopting the recommendations of the 2022 Act 35 Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments Report.**

For more information about VTDDC's platform, contact Policy Analyst Susan Aranoff.

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