

Governors Council For People With Disabilities Agency Overview

The purpose of the Agency's overview as documented in the instructions is to summarize the agency's total budget request. The Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is 100% federally funded. The Council has **never sought** and **is not requesting** any state general revenue funds currently or in the future.

The Council's federal budget is predicated on the tenets as espoused in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and follows the Federal fiscal year October 1 - September 30 with the uniqueness of obligating funds over a two-year period and liquidating funds within the third year. The Council does not collect or report data based on the state's fiscal year.

Although the Council will not be requesting any state funds, the Council is pleased to provide the following information as a point of information.

The Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is an independent state agency whose mission is "To advance independence, productivity, and integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of society." GCPD is entirely funded through a federal grant and receives no state appropriated funds. Currently GCPD receives federal funds through the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, which provides funding for GCPD to carry out its mission on behalf of individuals with disabilities. GCPD does not provide direct services. It is charged with the responsibility of capacity building, system's change and advocating for people with disabilities. This charge is met through a variety of activities and relies on the development of strategic partnerships in order to maximize the GCPD resources.

GCPD federal grant defines the types of activities which may be carried out under the grant. As a result, the accomplishments achieved and the challenges faced by GCPD fall within the parameters established by the federal grant.

Among the major accomplishments achieved during the last two years were:

- 38,722 event participants, \$20,000 sponsorship provided by Duke Energy, and bookmarks, awareness kits, and posters were distributed during Disability Awareness Month.
- 26,300 people were reached directly through grassroots special events education program coordinated by advocates with the help of disability information packets.
- 1,613 persons with disabilities and family members served through the Consumer Investment Fund.
- Sponsored with Homeland Security an Emergency Planning meeting for organizations who serve people with disabilities. Collaborated with Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS) to produce and distribute 25,000 TIPS booklets for first responders.
- Sponsored the 14th annual conference for People with Disabilities reaching about 400 people with cutting edge information and training.

- Graduated 35 from the 16th Class of the Partners in Policy Making Academy.
- Through the Fifth Freedom Network Community Alliance, continues to support 19 local community projects such as access parking, accessible housing, special education, and transportation.
- 16,185 Medicaid Waiver Guides were distributed over a two year period.
- Funded the Self Advocates of Indiana to continue their advocacy work including participation on 17 state and local committees and outreach resulting in the development of 12 additional new local groups and a regional coalition.
- Supported 2,852 persons with disabilities and family members to attend seminars, training events.

Among the challenges for the future are:

- Continuation of activities to promote positive attitudes regarding people with disabilities and the contributions they make in Hoosier communities.
- Continue to provide training for people with disabilities in developing leadership skills.
- Continue to conduct activities that will promote inclusive communities.
- Continue to promote best practices and self-determination.
- Continue to seek avenues by which people with disabilities can be involved in the decision making process.

Agency Objectives for the next year (The Council is currently in the process of developing a Federal required five year plan which will guide the Council's goals, objectives and strategies):

- Continue to provide advanced leadership training to enable people with disabilities and families to be effective participants in public commissions, boards of directors and advisory groups.
- Train leaders with disabilities on accessible/affordable housing barriers and effective strategies for increasing the availability of integrated housing.
- Continue to conduct the Partners in Policy Making Academy.
- In collaboration with IPAS and Institute on Disability and Community, continue to support a self advocates advanced leadership initiative.
- Continue to engage in strategies that will advance the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Continue to provide funding and staff resources to Self Advocates of Indiana.

- Continue to collaborate with IPAS and the Institute on Disability and Community to advance the agenda of people with disability.

New Special Initiatives

GCPD is entirely funded by a federal grant. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities can establish new priorities and initiatives to which GCPD would be under an obligation to respond. Funding for GCPD appears to be solvent and has remained solvent for 40 years. GCPD has been successful in leveraging funding from other sources throughout its existence.

Carry-over of Federal Grants

Federal grant funds which are unexpended at the end of the grant period remain with the federal government and do not revert to the state general fund. The federal grant administered by the GCPD permit two years to obligate the funds and a third year to liquidate. GCPD has been diligent in insuring full obligation and expenditure of funds so that Indiana receives full benefit from the allocation which, if unspent or unobligated, would revert to Washington.

Conclusion

The GCPD is pleased to serve in the unique position as advocate for people with disabilities over the past 40 years. Please accept my thanks in allowing the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities this opportunity to present information pertaining to the Council and the unique role it plays as the state's chief advocate and visionary in addressing issues impacting people with disabilities.

Your willingness to take the extra time to better understand the Council will assist the Council's board as it implements the intent, spirit, and letter of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and Senate Enrolled Act 363 in channeling its federal funds to benefit Hoosiers with disabilities. We look forward to the next biennium and to collaborative efforts with the Office of Management and Budget.