

National Findings and Goal

- The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402)
- This training is intended for all audiences.
Reading Ease level: 8.5

DD Act – the layout

- Has 3 titles
 - Title 1 – Programs for people with Developmental Disabilities
 - Title 2 – Family Support
 - Title 3 – Program for Direct Support Workers who assist people with Developmental Disabilities

Title 1

- Has 5 Subtitles
 - Subtitle A – General Provisions
 - Subtitle B – Federal Assistance to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities
 - Subtitle C – Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights
 - Subtitle D – National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service
 - Subtitle E – Projects of National Significance

Subtitle A – General Provisions

- This subtitle includes findings, purposes, and policy for the entire Act.
- Congress finds that disability is part of the human experience. People with developmental disabilities have the right to **live on their own**, to **have choice** over their own lives, and to **fully participate** in and **contribute** to their communities. This happens through **full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of United States society**;

Congress recognizes...

- That some disabilities are lifelong;
- People with developmental disabilities often encounter unfairness in the provision of critical services
- People with developmental disabilities are at greater risk for abuse, neglect, financial and sexual abuse and violation of legal and human rights

Congress recognizes...

- People with developmental disabilities and their families do not have access to appropriate support and services. Due to this, they remain unserved or underserved
- People with developmental disabilities often need lifelong community services and supports designed just for them. This is most effective when provided in a coordinated manner

Congress finds...

- There is a need to ensure that services, supports and other assistance is provided in a culturally respectful way. People of racial and ethnic minority backgrounds are fully included in all activities provided under this title.
- Family members, friends and members of the community are important in enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Most especially when people with developmental disabilities are given the necessary community services, supports designed for them, and other forms of assistance

Congress finds...

- A large percentage of people with developmental disabilities live with their families or in their own homes
- Many service delivery systems and communities are not prepared to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Many are living at home with parents aged 60+ and those parents serve as the primary caregiver of the adults.

Congress finds...

- People are waiting for services in almost every state
- The public needs to be more aware of the abilities and skills of people with developmental disabilities. Especially when the person is provided with necessary services, supports and assistance

Congress finds...

- There is a need for a well-trained workforce that can provide services, supports and other forms of direct assistance required to enable people with developmental disabilities to carry out activities (living, learning, working and engaging in all aspects of community life).
- Need greater effort to recruit people from minority backgrounds into professions serving people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Goal of the Nation

...include a goal of providing people with developmental disabilities with the information, skills, opportunities and support to...

- Make informed choices and decision about their lives
- Live in homes and communities where people with developmental disabilities can exercise their full rights and duties as citizens

Goal continued...

- Pursue meaningful and productive lives
- Contribute to their families, communities, states and the Nation
- Have friendships and relationships with other people
- Live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual abuse, and violations of their legal and human rights

Goal continued...

- Achieve full integration and inclusion into society, in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and skills of each person
- ...there is a need to evaluate the access to community living options by people with developmental disabilities and the effects of those options on people with developmental disabilities

Reference

- The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. 42 USC 15001 (2000).