

# Policy Volunteer

## **New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities**

*Citizens of all abilities are fully able to participate and contribute meaningfully to our society when given the right support services, opportunities to grow, and an accepting community.*

The New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities is dedicated to dignity, full rights of citizenship, equal opportunities, and full participation for all New Hampshire citizens with developmental disabilities. The Council carries out its mission through education, advocacy and the funding of innovative projects that make a difference in people's lives.

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The NH DD Council seeks a Policy Volunteer to support our Policy Director in his work. This volunteer should have an interest in working to help insure that policies are in place to best serve individuals with DD/ID.

### **Policy Accomplishments and Involvement:**

Since 1971, the Council has worked with considerable success to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The Council is well known for its role in closing Laconia State School, making NH the first state to free all of its citizens from institutions in 1991.

More recently, in June, 2014, the Council was involved in Senate Bill 396, which placed stricter regulations on the seclusion and restraint of children with disabilities. Then, in 2015, the Council took the lead on the Subminimum Wage Act (SB 47). This piece of legislation forbids employers from paying individuals with disabilities less than the state minimum wage.

A current Council project is the ABLE Act (SB 265), which is a savings account program for people with disabilities. Money in these accounts can be used for a variety of purposes, ranging from medical costs to education. The Council has been largely responsible for the progress that has been made thus far. Additionally, the Council is presently involved in another two important policy matters: tightening regulations on speech-language providers, and supporting the FDA in their efforts to ban the use of electrical stimulation devices.

### **Successful volunteers will have:**

- Reached the age of 18 (some exceptions may be made)
- Computer skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word
- Research and writing skills
- Attention to detail
- Organization skills

**Responsibilities may include:**

- Research and review of legislation related to DD/ID
- Participating in activities to create systems change, including but not limited to:
  - Testifying
  - Attending hearings
  - Writing letters of support/opposition

**How to Apply:**

If you would like to volunteer for the Council, please contact us at 603-271-7039, or send an email to [NHCDD.Director@ddc.nh.gov](mailto:NHCDD.Director@ddc.nh.gov). Please note that you will be asked to fill out a basic application, and to come to the office for an informal interview to discuss your interest in volunteering.

For more information about the Council, please visit [www.nhcdd.org](http://www.nhcdd.org).