



Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

# Become a Council Member

## TCDD Overview

The Texas Governor appoints individuals to the 27-member board of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. At least 60% of the Council's members must be persons with developmental disabilities, their parents or guardians, and other immediate relatives.

The Council also includes representatives from the major state agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities; a representative from the state's two university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University; a representative from the state's protection and advocacy system, Disability Rights Texas; and a member representing local, non-government organizations.

Developmental disability councils are funded on a formula basis mostly related to the state's population. Approximately 70% of TCDD's funds are awarded to about 40 grants each year that address a variety of topics, such as employment, education, positive behavioral intervention and supports, family support, transportation, health care, self-determination, accessible housing, and leadership and advocacy training.

## Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

The mission of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

All Council activities are expected to support the Council's mission statement and demonstrate:

- commitment to self-determination for individuals with disabilities and their families;
- efforts to ensure appropriate representation in all activities by people from diverse cultures and disabilities;
- best practices in the development and provision of services and supports, including an emphasis on measurable goals; and
- collaboration between the Council, grantees, advocacy organizations and other groups, including non-traditional partners, in activities that are consistent with the Council's mission.

## What is a Developmental Disability Council?

Developmental Disability (DD) Councils are established by federal law (the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act) to advocate for services and supports that enable people with developmental disabilities to have opportunities to live in the community of their choice, be independent, have jobs, and have other services and supports needed for full participation in community life.

- Learn more about the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/ddact/DDACT2.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/ddact/DDACT2.html).
- Read the federal definition of a developmental disability at [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/addabout.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/addabout.html).

## Learn More About TCDD

Visit [www.txddc.state.tx.us](http://www.txddc.state.tx.us) for more information about the TCDD, including:

- Council member roster
- grant projects
- annual reports
- TCDD State Plan
- budget
- public policy priorities
- position statements
- Council meeting schedules
- agendas/minutes

## Council Member Responsibilities

The Council serves as the governing board of TCDD and is responsible to approve annual budgets; grants projects and other activities to implement the Council-approved State Plan; public policy priorities that focus TCDD staff advocacy efforts with state agencies, the Texas Legislature and other venues; and other governance matters.

- The Council engages in advocacy and planning activities, supports model projects that serve as prototypes for future programs around the state, fosters public awareness and community acceptance through education, and seeks consumer involvement in Council activities.
- In addition to serving on the full Council, members are also expected to serve on either the Project Development Committee or the Public Policy Committee. These committees and the full Council meet quarterly; meetings are usually in Austin on the first Thursday and Friday in February, May, August and November. Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are available on the TCDD website.
- Council members may also be asked to serve on special committees or task forces of the Council, to provide educational information to the Texas Legislature and public agencies or at other public forums, and to represent the Council at other meetings or conferences relevant to people with developmental disabilities.
- Council members serve without salary, but are entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses for all approved activities, as allowed by the Legislature. Examples of covered expenses include meals, lodging and travel for the appointee and attendant; and, if applicable, respite care and other direct expenses.
- Governor-appointed members serve staggered terms of six years. The Governor designates a member of the Council to be the chair. Members are eligible to serve no more than two consecutive six-year terms.

## Council Member Appointment Process

The Governor appoints board and advisory committee members for numerous positions on state agencies and other entities, including the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. If you are interested in serving on any of these positions, you must complete an application and mail it to the Governor's Appointments Office. The appointments staff is especially interested in recruiting qualified applicants who reflect the state's cultural, ethnic and geographic diversity.

### How to Apply

If you are interested in applying to serve on the Council, follow the instructions on the Governor's Appointments Application Process web page at [www.governor.state.tx.us/appointments/process](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/appointments/process). The Governor's office will send you an acknowledgement when your application is received. When it is time for the Governor to make an appointment in which you have expressed interest, the background and qualifications of all applicants are reviewed.

Contact your Senator to request a recommendation to the Governor, who makes all appointment decisions. TCDD Council appointments do not require Senate confirmation. To find out how to contact your Senator, visit [www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us).

TCDD staff are happy to assist in any way possible.



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

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