

# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition

## Who We Are

### **People On the Go of Maryland**

People On the Go (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization made up of people with intellectual and developmental challenges. POG uses its voice to be heard and recognized. The foundation of POG is the belief that all people with disabilities have the right to be full participants in their communities, regardless of disability and level of support needed. Being full participants means going to school, working, living in their or their families' homes, and being seen as a contributing member of one's community. POG believes that all people have the right to live a life of their choosing, and strives to eliminate discrimination. People On the Go has been in existence for over 20 years, and continues to be a leader in the advocacy movement.

### **The Arc of Maryland**

The Arc of Maryland is a statewide non-profit organization that works to create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities. The Arc of MD began in 1950 as a small group of concerned parents and today is the largest statewide advocacy organization assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Maryland. The Arc of MD has nearly 7,000 members throughout Maryland including people with intellectual disabilities, parents and other family members, educators and professionals working in the field and interested persons from the general public. The Arc has ten local chapters that provide an array of direct services for people of all ages and their families.

### **The Maryland Association of Community Services**

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 100 DDA-licensed agencies that provide community supports to people across the state. MACS is dedicated to strengthening agencies to better support people with developmental disabilities and their families in their own communities. This is accomplished through advocacy that promotes the highest standards of program excellence; fosters a climate that develops and nurtures a quality workforce; and results in an increased capacity within Maryland communities to support people in inclusive settings. In addition to advocacy work, MACS provides training, conferences, peer networks, and inter-agency support for its members.

### **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council is a statewide public policy and advocacy organization that works to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. The Council educates and informs policymakers about issues of importance to people with developmental disabilities and their families, advocates for services, policies & practices that support people with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination and lead productive, fulfilling lives, and designs and funds innovative initiatives that promote community inclusion and improve services and supports. The Council advocates for the elimination of barriers that create separation and segregation and limit opportunities for full inclusion and community participation.

### **Disability Rights Maryland**

The Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the federally-designated Protection and Advocacy agency for the State of Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM is a non-profit legal services organization that employs an array of strategies, including information and referral, direct representation, impact litigation, abuse and neglect investigations, technical assistance, community outreach and training. DRM's goal is to create a more integrated and just society by advancing the legal rights of people with disabilities and ensuring equal opportunities to participate in community life. DRM envisions a world where people with disabilities are fully included in the workplace, neighborhoods and all aspects of community life.