

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK PRESENTS

DD NETWORK NEWS

A Collaborative Publication from MSCDD, DRMS and IDS

WINTER 2023 ISSUE



HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the DD Network!

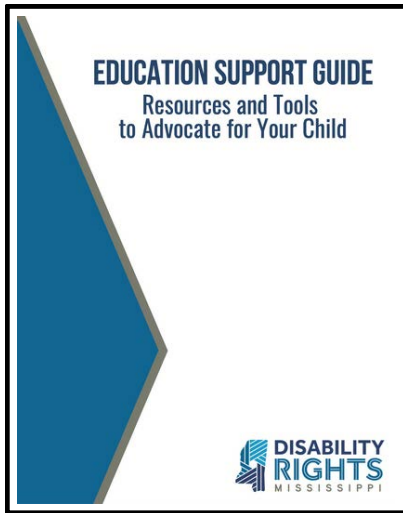
Wishing you a wonderful 2023. Our resolution? To continue improving the lives of Mississippians with disabilities!



**The disAbility MegaConference
will be back in 2023!**

Stay tuned for more information about the amazing speakers, sessions, and resources that will be featured at this year's conference. Keep an eye out on our social media pages for the date, which will be announced soon!

DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI



A core part of Disability Rights' mission is to ensure students with disabilities have full inclusion in education. We have released our new Education Support Guide resource booklet (with support from MSCDD!) to help parents and guardians of students with disabilities learn more about their rights and how to best advocate for their child in the educational setting. The booklet contains tools, tips, and resources to ensure you are equipped to advocate for your student throughout the IEP planning process and what to expect. When you have these resources available, you can not only better advocate for your student but also know when their rights are being violated and how to proceed. If you would like a copy of the Education Support Guide mailed or emailed to you, contact jwalton@drms.ms.

The DRMS team is growing! We have two open legal positions: Correctional Facility Legal Fellow and Monitoring Attorney. If you know a legal mind who is passionate about serving people with disabilities, please share! All open positions and applications can be found at www.drms.ms/category/job-openings.

INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES

Happy 2023! The Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) wishes you all a happy and healthy new year.

On November 30, 2022, collaborated with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to host the first Mississippi Job Extravaganza event on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Job Extravaganza is a fun-filled and educational experience for students with disabilities ages 14-21 with the primary purpose of providing an inclusive business learning experience. This "personal career fair" consisted of local businesses providing hands-on skill experiences for high school students with disabilities. The ultimate goal of Job Extravaganza is to provide an environment in which students can freely explore a variety of careers at their own pace and hopefully discover career options that best fit their preferences, strengths, and interests. For more information IDS, Job Extravaganza, or other pre-employment programs, please visit www.usm.edu/ids, call 601.266.5163 or email ids@usm.edu.



MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Applications for Membership to the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities Available Now!

Are you ready to join a group of advocates focused on improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities? Are you a person with a developmental disability, parent, immediate relative, guardian, or non-governmental agency or non-profit organization leader? The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting applications to be considered for a Governor's appointment to the Council.

The Council currently has 24 members. At least 60% of our membership are people with developmental disabilities, parents, guardians, or immediate family members of children or adults with developmental disabilities. Major responsibilities of a Council member include: attending and participating in quarterly Council meetings; actively serving on one or more committees; and reviewing grant proposals and applications to achieve five-year state plan goals.

Quarterly Council meetings are held in January (South Mississippi), April (Jackson area), July (North Mississippi), and October (Jackson area). Review of grant proposals and committee meetings occur an additional one or more times per year. Council member travel expenses are reimbursed. The Membership Application is available at www.msccd.org. If you have questions or need assistance completing the application, please call 601-359-6238 or email charles.hughes@dmh.ms.gov.

Two Grant Opportunities Available Now!

The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities currently has two grant opportunities available for Mississippi's public, private, non-profit, or for-profit organizations and agencies! Projects should provide new ideas to improve the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. Examples include developing self-advocacy and leadership skills; demonstrating new approaches or access to community services, such as employment, transportation, housing, health, education, early intervention, recreation, and other supports; or providing resources to families to plan for the future care of aging adults with developmental disabilities.

A Request for Proposals and an Innovative Quality of Life Grant Application can be found at www.msccd.org. With the two opportunities, approximately \$525,000 is available to fund 10 or more projects. If you have questions, please call 601-359-5533 or email christy.ashley@dmh.ms.gov.

If you have information you would like to have included in the next issue, please contact Jane Walton at jwalton@drms.ms.

