



Public Input on VBPD Strategic Plan

Help us help people with disabilities!

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (the Board) is creating a strategic plan. The plan will guide our work for five years. Your feedback will help us identify what to work on. We welcome feedback from people with developmental disabilities (DD), their family members, and people who serve them.

Our mission is to help people with DD be independent and participate in the community. We educate policymakers, fund grant projects, and train people. We do not provide direct services.

You can see our questions below. You can email your answers to nia.harrison@vbpd.virginia.gov. You can also answer the questions online at <https://bit.ly/VBPDInputSurvey>. If you need help or want to answer these questions in a different way, email Nia.Harrison@vbpd.virginia.gov or call 804-786-7333.

Thank you!

1. **Please describe yourself.** Please choose all that apply. Your answer is confidential. Confidential means we will not share your individual answers with other people.

A developmental disability (DD) starts before age 22. People with DD often need supports and services for life. Examples include Down Syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy.

- I have a developmental disability
- I have a family member who has a developmental disability
- I provide services to people with developmental disabilities
- I work for an organization that advocates for people with developmental disabilities
- I work for state government
- I am a Board member for the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Other:
- None of the above
- I don't want to answer

Part 1: What should the Board work on?

2. What things are most important for the Board to work on? Please choose up to 4.

The Medicaid DD waiver is a program that lets people with disabilities get services in their home or community instead of living in an institution, such as a nursing home.

- Childcare
- Community services, which are services that support living and participating in the community (like Medicaid DD waiver services)
- Early intervention, which includes services and supports for children with developmental delays and their families
- Education
- Employment
- Financial health, which includes understanding and managing your money and disability benefits
- Health
- Housing
- Recreation, which are activities that people do for fun like art, camping, games, music, and sports
- Safety
- Transportation
- Other:

3. Of the topics you chose in question #2, which one is most important? You do not have to answer.

For questions #4 through #14 below, please look at the questions that are about the topics you chose in question #2 above. You do not have to answer all the questions.

4. **For childcare, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Having more daycares that include young children with DD
- Having more before and after school care that includes younger children with DD
- Having more before and after school care that includes middle and high school students with DD
- Having more information on daycares that include young children with DD
- Having more information on before and after school care that includes people with DD
- Improving the quality of daycare for young children with DD
- Improving the quality of before and after school care
- Lowering the cost of daycare
- Lowering the cost of before and after school
- Other:
- I don't know

5. **For community services, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

Community services support living and participating in the community. The Medicaid DD waiver is a program that lets people with disabilities get services in their home or community instead of living in an institution, such as a nursing home.

- Expanding eligibility or services for the Medicaid DD Waiver
- Having more information about community services
- Having more information about housing options
- Having more Medicaid providers
- Having more services for people without a Medicaid DD Waiver
- Having people with disabilities more included in community life
- Improving the quality of Medicaid providers
- Making it faster or easier to get a Medicaid DD Waiver
- Other:
- I don't know

6. **For early intervention, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

Early intervention includes services and supports for children with developmental delays and their families.

- Better screening for developmental delays
- Having more early intervention providers
- Having more information on early intervention for family members
- Having more information on early intervention for service providers
- Improving the quality of early intervention providers
- Lowering the cost of early intervention
- Other:
- I don't know

7. **For education, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Better planning for what to do after school, like going to college or getting a job
- Having more colleges and universities that include people with DD
- Having more K-12 schools that include people with DD
- Having more information for families on the right to a free and appropriate public education
- Having more information for students with DD and their families on higher education
- Other:
- I don't know

8. **For employment, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Having more employers who hire and support people with DD
- Having more providers who help people with DD get jobs and keep jobs
- Helping people with DD get a job after school
- Helping people with DD keep their benefits while working
- Helping people with DD who want to own their own business
- Improving the quality of providers who help people with DD get jobs and keep jobs
- Making it faster or easier to get employment services from the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) or Medicaid
- Other:
- I don't know

9. **For financial health, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

Financial health includes understanding and managing your money and disability benefits.

- Advocating for policies that support financial health for people with disabilities
- Supporting financial literacy, which is understanding how to manage money
- Supporting financial planning, which is creating a plan to achieve your money goals
- Supporting financial stability, which is having enough money to pay your bills and support your goals
- Supporting benefits planning, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicaid, and employment income
- Other:
- I don't know

10. **For health, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Having more information for people with DD on healthcare laws
- Improving access to behavioral health providers, who try to improve mental health and lower the use of drugs like alcohol and tobacco
- Improving access to dental care
- Improving access to other healthcare providers
- Supporting healthy habits like exercise and what you eat and drink
- Other:
- I don't know

11. **For housing, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Having more homes that are accessible
- Having more homes that come with services and supports, also known as supported living
- Having more information for people with DD on housing options
- Having more information for people with DD on housing laws
- Lowering the cost of renting or buying a home
- Lowering the cost of modifying a home to be more accessible
- Other:
- I don't know

12. **For safety, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Disaster preparedness
- Protecting people with DD from abuse, neglect, and exploitation in their home and community
- Protecting people with DD from abuse, neglect, and exploitation in institutions where they live
- Protecting people with DD from abuse, neglect, and exploitation in schools
- Protecting people with DD from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by guardians
- Protecting people with DD who are older from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Supporting access to services for people with DD who are in an emergency
- Supporting alternatives to guardianship
- Other:
- I don't know

13. **For recreation, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

Recreational activities are things people do for fun in their free time. Examples include art, music, sports, outdoor activities, and social events.

- Having more recreational activities that include people with DD, like clubs and teams
- Having more information on recreational activities that include people with DD
- Having more access to recreational areas like parks and community centers
- Improving the accessibility of recreational activities
- Improving the quality of recreational activities for people with DD
- Lowering the cost of recreational activities
- Other:
- I don't know

14. **For transportation, what things should the Board work on? Please choose up to two.** You do not have to answer.

- Having more information on transportation options
- Having more public transportation providers
- Improving the quality of Medicaid transportation
- Improving the quality of public transportation
- Making places more accessible for walking and rolling
- Other:
- I don't know

15. **Please share any other feedback on the topics you chose.** For example, what problems have you seen? How can the Board help? You do not have to answer.

16. **How can the Board help you become a better advocate?** You do not have to answer.

Part 2: Feedback from Organizations

If you work at an organization or government agency, please look at questions #17 through #19 below. If you do not work at an organization or government agency, please go to question #20.

We value your organization's experience and expertise. We welcome your feedback to help us foster partnerships. You do not have to answer these questions.

17. How can the Board be more effective? The Board's work includes policy advocacy, grants, and self-advocacy training.

18. Please describe any projects your organization would like to work on with the Board (if applicable).

19. Does your organization have any recent needs assessments regarding people with disabilities? We are interested in any data you may have from surveys, focus groups, interviews, etc. If so, please put a link here or email it to nia.harrison@vbpd.virginia.gov.

Part 3: About you

You are almost done! Please tell us about yourself. This information helps us know who our survey results represent.

Your answers are **confidential**. Confidential means we will not share your individual answers with other people. You do not have to answer.

20. (optional question) **Where do you live?**

- City or suburb
- Rural area like the countryside
- Other:
- I do not know
- I do not want to answer

21. (optional question) **What is your gender?**

- Female
- Male
- Other:
- I do not know
- I do not want to answer

22. (optional question) **What is your race and ethnicity?** Please choose all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic/Latino or Latina
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other:
- I do not know
- I do not want to answer

Thank you for your feedback!