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## **New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) Position Statement**

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### **Services and Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**

#### **History:**

Over the years, there have been effective efforts to expand services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities in our State. These efforts have made the NYS developmental disabilities service system a national leader in providing for the service and support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and caregivers. As new research and information has become available; it has enabled the service delivery system to serve individuals with developmental disabilities far more effectively. At times this new information has had applicability to a small group of individuals; at other times, it has had broader applicability. In each instance, it has become part of the larger body of information which guides policy and practice within the developmental disabilities service system in a way that does not separate one disability category from another and create fragmentation and competition. Consistent with federal legislation, DDPC has partnered with all the state agencies that make up the service delivery system and focused on the functional needs of individuals with very wide range of disabilities – intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, neurological impairment, dual diagnosis, autism, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, and many more. As a result of this approach, the system is moving towards individualized services for all individuals with developmental disabilities and available dollars are going toward services rather than administration and bureaucratic structures.

#### **Position Statement:**

*It is the position of the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council that providing the supports and services for all individuals with developmental disabilities has been effective and very beneficial. Separating one disability category from all other disability categories is detrimental for consumers and those who support them.*

*To meet the needs and assure full participation in the community for all individuals with developmental disabilities, person-centered planning and individualized services and supports based on functional needs should be available to all individuals regardless of the severity or complexity of their needs or the type of developmental disability.*

*It is also critical that the people who support individuals with developmental disabilities - families, advocates, caregivers, and direct support workers - be provided with the resources needed to care and advocate for those entrusted to them.*

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