

**The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network
Strategic Plan
FY 2006**

The Massachusetts (MA) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network is a collaborative of four organizations who promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The network partners accomplish this mission through advocacy, education, research and dissemination of information.

I. *The capacity of the self advocacy movement in Massachusetts will continue to be increased.*

**Lead Partner DDC
Strategic Directions**

Partners will meet with the Coordinator and the Executive Committee of the Board to discuss how to support M.A.S.S. by February, 2006 (DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).

Partners will assist M.A.S.S. in the development of public information strategies enabling M.A.S.S. to:

Launch its website by March, 2006 (DLC); and

Publish a quarterly newsletter beginning in January, 2007(DLC).

Partners will support M.A.S.S in strengthening their infrastructure enabling M.A.S.S. to:

Have Board approved personnel policies which are in compliance with federal and state law by April, 2006 (DLC);

Have Board approved Fiscal Policies by June, 2006(DLC); and

Reorganize their fiscal operations consistent with their fiscal policies by June, 2006 (DLC);

Conduct a performance review of M.A.S.S. FFY 2006 DD Council grant and provide recommendations for improving internal control, accounting and reporting mechanisms by December 2006 (DDC).

Partners will support M.A.S.S. efforts towards self-sufficiency enabling M.A.S.S. to:

Solicit financial support from new sources by June 2007(DDC);

Support and/or provide on-going training and support for the M.A.S.S. Board of Directors beginning June, 2006(DLC/DDC/ICI/SC);

Hold a series of breakfast club meetings related to its fundraising efforts by October, 2007 (DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).

Partners will establish a level of support for M.A.S.S. activities and request proposals for funding to the DD Network which will be reviewed by the partners collectively by June, 2006 (DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).

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Partners agree to stipulate that twenty percent (20%) of the total amount allotted by Partners will be designated for M.A.S.S. Board training and development by June, 2006 (DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).

Partners will request quarterly reports from M.A.S.S. to the DD Network regarding its progress towards achieving their 2005 Strategic Plan and the projects approved by the DD Network for funding. Mechanism will be in place by June, 2006.

II. *People with developmental disabilities participate in leadership and self-advocacy training specific to reducing or eliminating abuse, neglect and exploitation*

Lead Partner – DLC
Strategic Direction

In cooperation with M.A.S.S., partners will develop a training program modeled after Maine's SUFU Abuse & Neglect Training which includes training for people with developmental disabilities and training for trainers by April, 2006 (DLC).

III. *People with developmental disabilities and their families have been empowered to make choices about their needs through improved access to information & referral mechanisms.*

Lead Partner – Shriver Center
Strategic Directions

Partners will develop a shared website by July, 2006 (SC).

Partners will develop a DD Network brochure by July, 2006 (SC/DDC/DLC/ICI).

Each partner maintains membership in the Massachusetts Network of Information Providers – ongoing (SC/DDC/DLC/ICI).

Partners will continue to participate in Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program – on-going (SC/DDC/DLC/ICI).

IV. *People with developmental disabilities and their families identify and prioritize their unmet needs providing guidance to the DD Network for development of individual partner plans resulting in a consumer and family centered comprehensive system of services and supports in Massachusetts.*

Lead Partner - DLC

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Strategic Directions

Partners will organize Disability Summit which includes self advocates, to be held in early April, 2007 (DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Establish a Summit Planning Committee which includes representation from each partner and others agencies by November 1, 2006 (DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Identify a date for the Summit by December 1, 2006 (DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Develop goals for the Summit and an agenda by February 1, 2007 (DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Partners will release a final report on the Disability Summit by October 1, 2007(DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Partners will review the Summit Report and incorporate its recommendations in the Network Strategic Plan as appropriate by December1, 2007 (DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

- V. *Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members are involved in the development of a consumer and family centered comprehensive service system in Massachusetts.***

Lead Partner - ICI
Strategic Directions

Partners will continue to participate in the Employment Summit – ongoing (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

Partners will continue to participate in the state’s development of community based services through the Systems Transformation Grants, Medicaid Infrastructure Grants and other ‘Real Choices’ initiatives – ongoing (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

Partners will support persons with developmental disabilities in serving in leadership capacities on the partner Advisory Committees and other statewide advisory committees - ongoing (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

- VI. *Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are knowledgeable their health care needs and the resources available to address them.***

Lead Partner – Shriver Center
Strategic Directions

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Partners will develop electronic information on health care resources and how to access them by September 2006 (SC).

Partners will develop trainings related to health and wellness and legal rights to health benefits by July 2007(SC/DDC/DLC/ICI).

VII. *Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members have opportunities to develop leadership skills.*

Lead Partner – ICI
Strategic Directions

Partners will continue to sponsor and promote the Gopen Fellowship – ongoing (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

Partners will continue to support the Self Advocacy Leadership Series - ongoing(/DDC/).

Partners will continue to support the participation of self-advocates in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions - ongoing (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

Partners will develop a new developmental disabilities leadership initiative with Independent Living Centers and State Agencies by July, 2006 (ICI/DDC/DLC/SC).

VIII. *The DD Network is an active, communicative, and coordinated network.*

Lead Partner – DDC
Strategic Directions

Partners will develop a regular meeting schedule (bi-monthly alternating face to face meetings with teleconferences) of the MA DD Network to monitor implementation of this strategic plan and identify new opportunities for collaboration by April, 2006 (DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).

Partners will develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in support of this strategic plan by June, 2006 (/DLC/DDC/ICI/SC).

Partners will develop a mechanism to post activities of each partner and post it on the website by September, 2006 (SC/DDC/DLC/ICI).

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Partners will host a meeting of DD Networks throughout New England to discuss and promote network strategic planning by May, 2007(DDC/DLC/ICI/SC).