

About TCDD: The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) draws from the principles identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act (Public Law 106–402) in evaluating and responding to current and future policy issues that impact the developmental disabilities (DD) community. **TCDD invests its funds on promising practices that advance the inclusion of people with DD in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, and promoting innovation.**

2019 Public Policy Priority:

Health Care

Promote efforts to increase the accessibility and affordability of health care for all individuals with disabilities, including the expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) and other medical programs that directly benefit people with disabilities and improve their quality of life. Reforms are necessary to strengthen the current Medicaid program so that it provides high-quality health care services to people with disabilities enrolled in the program; vital changes include, but are not limited to, evidence-based practices and payment structures that attract providers.

TCDD Investments & Impact: Health Care

TCDD's recent project investments to build capacity to improve the system in Texas:

Health & Fitness Projects

- Epilepsy Foundation Texas: The Get FIT (Fitness, Integration, Training) Texas project established a fitness and healthy lifestyle program for individuals with DD and epilepsy and their caregivers in rural communities of Texas.
- Texas Statewide Independent Living Center (SILC): This project developed evidence-based health and fitness programs for people with DD in the Brazos Valley (College Station and Bryan) and West Texas (Lubbock) areas. This project focused on increasing access to fitness programs, improving health outcomes, and increasing awareness of the importance of health and fitness programs for people with DD.
- Any Baby Can of San Antonio: This project promoted health, physical fitness, and inclusion of children and youth with DD through recreational and fitness activities. Each individual became aware of the need to incorporate health and wellness into their own lifestyle and was given training, tools, and knowledge to sustain the changes achieved. The project included family and nutrition components.

Health Systems

- Baylor College of Medicine Transition Clinic: The project started with the goals of delivering a medical home to adolescents and young adults with chronic illnesses who are transitioning their

health care from pediatrics to the adult health and specialty care system. It has become a resource for the community on transitioning youth with special health care needs.

- **Project DOCC Houston:** This project recruits, trains, and assigns duties to parent teachers who provide “training” to the pediatric residents by meeting with the residents and facilitating home visits. They also provide a comprehensive understanding of life with a child with chronic illness or disabilities.
- **Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P):** This project provided Pediatric and Family Practice Residents and other members of the medical community with a comprehensive understanding of life with a child with chronic illness or disabilities. TxP2P created five different Medical Residency Programs (MEd.) in collaboration with hospitals, a Pediatric and Family Practice, nursing classes, and ECI programs.

Other 2019 Public Policy Priorities:

- Community Attendant Rates and Wages
- Most Integrated, Person-Centered Setting
- Home and Community-based Services
- Accessible Parking
- Employment First
- Accessible Transportation

More Information: To learn more about TCDD’s public policy priorities for the 86th Texas Legislature, contact Scott Daigle, Public Policy Director, at scott.daigle@tcdd.texas.gov or (512) 437-5417.