

West Virginia Olmstead Council Legislative Priorities for 2015

Priority 1: *Implement the West Virginia Olmstead Plan to ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*

- Revise the West Virginia Olmstead Plan to address federal enforcement guidelines.
- Establish a formal agreement to ensure the cooperation and collaboration between all affected agencies and public entities with the Olmstead Office to implement the Olmstead Plan, as outlined in *Executive Order 11-05*.
- Inclusion of the Olmstead Office and Council in state processes that affect the institutional and/or community-based long term care system.
- Improve access to home and community-based services and supports through the passage of the Community-Based Services Act or equivalent legislation.

Priority 2: *Eliminate the institutional bias in West Virginia's long term care system.*

- Support the continued development and implementation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant, Take Me Home, West Virginia.
- Increase access and availability of home and community-based services while reducing reliance on institutional settings.
- Issue an annual report that identifies institutional bias and recommendations for change.

Priority 3: *Develop and maintain a statewide, comprehensive transition and diversion program.*

- Obtain additional funding to support other transition and diversion programs throughout West Virginia.

Priority 4: *Implement a formal plan to address the major barrier of affordable, accessible and integrated housing options for people with disabilities.*

- Provide state designation of federal HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance.
- Identify local, state and federal housing resources either under-utilized or un-utilized to address the critical housing gap in West Virginia for people with disabilities.

Priority 5: *Ensure people with disabilities have opportunities for employment, transportation and meaningful participation in their community.*

- Reduce reliance on day programs and sheltered workshops.
- Support the development of an "Employment First" Initiative.
- Support people with disabilities to participate meaningfully in their communities and to attain valued social roles.
- Support a collaborative and coordinated approach to assure available, affordable and accessible transportation.

West Virginia Olmstead Council Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles

Olmstead Mission Statement

The mission of the Olmstead Council is to develop and monitor the implementation of a plan that will promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, work and participate in the community of their choice through West Virginia's compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Olmstead Vision Statement

The vision of the Olmstead Council is that all West Virginians with disabilities live, learn, work and participate in the community of their choice.



Olmstead Guiding Principles

- People with disabilities, regardless of the severity of the disability, can be supported to live in the community and setting of their choice.
- People with disabilities must have choice and control over where and with whom they live.
- People with disabilities must have opportunities to live integrated lives in communities with their neighbors, and not subjected to rules or requirements that are different from those without disabilities. Integration does not just mean physical presence in a neighborhood, but valued and meaningful participation in community services and activities.
- People with disabilities must have access to information, education and experiences that foster their ability to make informed choices, while respecting dignity of risk.
- People with disabilities must have opportunities to develop valued social roles, meaningful personal relationship and activities of their choice.
- People with disabilities must have meaningful opportunities for competitive employment.



Vanessa VanGilder, Olmstead Coordinator
Olmstead Office, Office of Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Resources
State Capitol Complex
Building 6, Room 817-B
Charleston, West Virginia 25302
Phone: (304) 558-3287
Vanessa.K.VanGilder@wv.gov