

Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)



Our mission is to provide leadership that advances inclusion for people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.



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at Kennedy Krieger Institute



The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute serves as Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). The MCDD is one of the oldest UCEDDs in the nation and is part of a national network known as the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

The MCDD aims to improve the lives of people with disabilities through four core functions: interdisciplinary pre-service preparation, continuing education and training; community services and technical assistance; research and evaluation; and product development and information dissemination.

Interdisciplinary Pre-Service Preparation, Continuing Education and Training

The MCDD **partners with local and state agencies, people with disabilities and their families, and health professionals** to provide training across a broad spectrum of topics to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families.

The MCDD, including Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) offered **77 professional and community-based trainings** to Kennedy Krieger staff members, trainees, individuals with disabilities, family members and service providers. Attendees **reported 99% satisfaction** with the training they received.

A diverse group of **23 trainees from nine institutions of higher education participated in the MCDD's training program**. The trainees represented seven disciplines; most were studying public health or law. The MCDD hosted a Project SEARCH intern who completed two rounds of internship, with the Resource Finder and Project HEAL.

People On the Go (POG) offered 14 Project STIR trainings to 501 individuals with disabilities.

Trainee Disciplines



Community Services and Technical Assistance

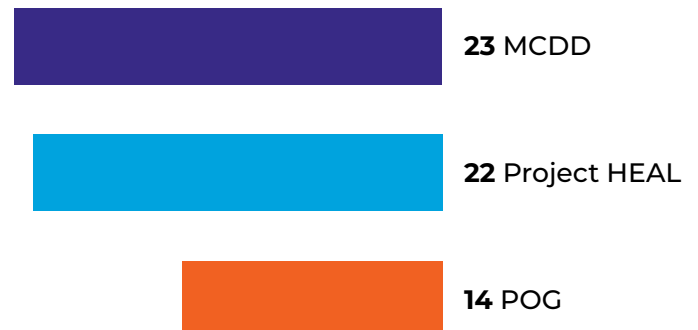
Project HEAL provides **advocacy and civil legal services** for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are patients at Kennedy Krieger Institute and their families.

Project HEAL staff members **provided full representation to 88 families, limited representation to 504 individuals and 214 case consultations** for Kennedy Krieger staff members and trainees.

(POG), a statewide self-advocacy group run for and by those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, delivered eight presentations and attended three conferences. They continuously recruit a diverse group of members and have a total **membership of over 400 individuals statewide**.

During the **2023 Maryland General Assembly** session, the MCDD provided oral or written testimony for, or signed onto, **59 pieces of proposed legislation** that would affect individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

Legislative Advocacy: Written and Oral Testimony





The MCDD works closely with state agencies and organizations, including:

Disability Rights Maryland, Maryland's protection and advocacy organization

Johns Hopkins University Disability Health Research Center

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

The Arc of Howard County

Research and Evaluation

The MCDD is working on two grant-funded projects:

Expanding the Public Health Workforce: Our goal is to improve care for the disability community by educating public health professionals and educators within the disability and aging networks about challenges brought on by the pandemic.

National Center for Disability, Equity, and Intersectionality: As part of a national collaborative effort, our goal is to lead the nation's charge to identify and reduce life-limiting inequities in healthcare, community living and justice for people with disabilities, targeting ableism and racism with an intersectional lens.

Our **Autism Research and Engagement Core** demonstrates experience and expertise in autism research, community engagement and communicating science to the public. The team published four journal articles and 27 articles for the SPARK website.



5 blogs published for the National Center for Disability, Equity, and Intersectionality

37 Community of Practice members recruited



6 nonprofit organizations partnered to create the Changemakers Coalition

Product Development and Information Dissemination

Our **Resource Finder** informs individuals, families, trainees and professionals about community services, service providers and other information on intellectual, developmental and other disabilities across the lifespan.

The Resource Finder **responded to 1,064 inquiries, helping individuals from 29 states and Washington, D.C., and two countries outside the United States.** Of those seeking information from the Resource Finder, **93% reported satisfaction** with the information they received.

The MCDD **hosted 19 resource fair exhibitor tables**, disseminating fact sheets and brochures in English and Spanish.

MCDD staff members **published six peer-reviewed journal articles.**

Top 5 Resource Finder Topics Requested



Service Provider



Diagnosis



Request for Kennedy Krieger Services



Recreation



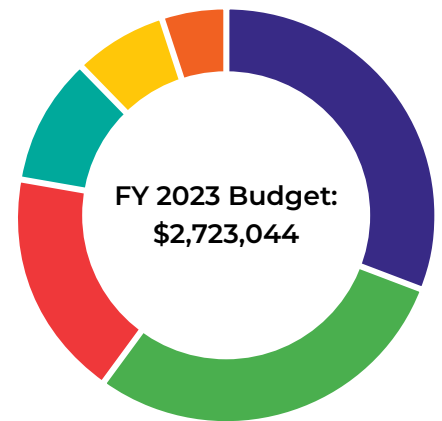
Education



The MCDD's Community Advisory Council (CAC) includes two individuals with disabilities, two direct-support professionals, three family members of people with disabilities, and representation from seven state agencies and organizations that provide services and supports for the disability community in Maryland.

Dr. Mirian Ofonedu, MCDD's director of training, received the Social Justice Award as a visiting professor at UNIZIK, a federally funded university in West Africa. Elizabeth Benevides, chair of the MCDD's CAC, received the Gordon Richins Award for Leadership and Advocacy at the AUCD's 2022 annual conference.

- Federal: 31%
- Nonprofit: 29%
- State: 18%
- Charitable Contributions: 10%
- Institute Contributions: 7%
- Fee-for-Service: 5%



On the cover: MCDD staff members (Back row, left to right: Tracy Waller, Annie Carver, Kristine Nellenbach, Maureen van Stone, Jennifer Falter and Mirian Ofonedu. Front row, left to right: Tyler Cochran, Tracy Hincke, Christopher Mason-Hale and Megan Meck. Not pictured: Emma Barbato, Cheryl Cohen, J. Kiely Law, Mallory Legg, Alison Marvin, James Orman, Maria Oven, Mat Rice, Marina Sarris, Jaimie Toroney and Tracy Wright.)

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