

Aging and Developmental Disability Coalition

A Guide For Using This Tool Kit

The time is right to develop Aging and Developmental Disability Coalitions throughout the state of Georgia:

- Adults with developmental disabilities are living longer than before.
- Aging caregivers face significant burdens when facing their own age-related concerns, while continuing to meet the needs of their child.
- Service delivery systems are stretched as they must respond to growing needs with fewer resources.

Aging and Developmental Disability Coalitions offer a forum in which organizations can share resources in order to raise awareness, develop needed programs, and advocate for policy change to ensure that Georgia communities have the capacity to serve the growing needs of this population.

Goals

The **Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition Tool Kit** provides resources to communities to achieve the following goals:

- 1) To increase community awareness of aging with developmental disabilities and provide resources to assist regions in assessing needs,
- 2) To build and strengthen partnerships and collaborative relationships with providers, community professionals, state and local agencies, educational institutions, professional organizations, and other stakeholders to efficiently target gaps and improve multiple efforts,
- 3) To increase community capacity to provide information and support to people who are aging with developmental disabilities by maximizing expertise and cross-training within the information and referral system.

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Target Audience

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection initiative has served as a catalyst for partnership between aging and developmental disability networks in Georgia. The two regions in Georgia who received funding for the initial demonstration project have established Coalitions and have accomplished many goals.

Additional funding provided by the Georgia General Assembly in fiscal year 2007 has allowed the ADRCs to expand to three additional regions. Area agencies on aging (AAA) and regional offices of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) are lead partners in the new ADRC initiatives. Some have formed Coalition partnerships for the first time, while others would benefit by strengthening existing relationships as they embark on this new project.

Communities who did not receive funding in 2007 for ADRC programs may use the resources provided in this Tool Kit to build networks and partnerships in anticipation of future ADRC funding. Communities who have already received funding for ADRC programs may use the tool kit materials to enhance their existing local aging and developmental disabilities coalition.

Aging and Developmental Disability Coalitions are essential for all communities, regardless of whether they are implementing an ADRC. There is much progress to be made in raising awareness and enhancing long-term care services and supports. **Resources provided in this Tool Kit can be used by any community in Georgia to initiate the local conversations with respect to aging with developmental disabilities, or to improve upon existing efforts at any level.** Numerous brochures are included in the tool kit as sample copies. Your region may adopt a similar format to use locally. Please edit the agency name and logo on the back of the brochure.

Each section in the tool kit is designed to be used independently of one another. Please note the fact sheets are repeated in different sections, but master copies are located in the “Fact Sheets” folder.

About the Author

This information is provided by the Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition in the Greater Atlanta region formed in 1999 in response to the growing needs of persons with developmental disabilities who are aging,

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and their parents and/or caregivers who are aging. Members work to educate providers on serving people with disabilities throughout the aging process, and envision a seamless system that provides transition through the stages of life without disruption, with appropriate services and support. The Greater Atlanta Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition is committed to strengthening the Coalition network across the state of Georgia.