

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK - 2001	MENTAL RETARDATION/ DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES URGENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS PREPARED BY THE MENTAL RETARDATION/ DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	PREPARED BY CAN MR/DD PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
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Urgent Issue I: A significant disparity exists in the employment rates of persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD).
Data: 69% of people with developmental disabilities who are of working age are unemployed. 19.7% of their counterparts in the general population are unemployed.
Desired Result: Increased employment and volunteer options for persons with mental retardation/developmental disabilities.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase the number of people with MR/DD employed in community jobs.	Conduct a public awareness campaign targeted at employers and volunteer agencies.	Funding to develop, print, and distribute video, print materials, and speaking notes	40 hours marketing/pr professional time to develop video and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership @ work • Workforce Development Board • Business Leadership Council • Agencies serving people with MR/DD
Increase the number of people with MR/DD with internships or volunteer options that lead to paid employment.	Train potential workers and their families on employment-related issues, especially as related to maintaining benefits while working.	Funding for curriculum development	Space to conduct training	
Increase the awareness of employers of the benefits of hiring persons with MR/DD.		Funding for child care and refreshments at trainings		
Increase awareness of people with MR/DD and their families of the benefits of work and interface with health insurance, etc.				

Urgent Issue II: People with MR/DD are often excluded from participation in community activities due to issues with accessibility, lack of financial resources, and lack of support.

Data: Nationwide, there are just under 76,000 on waiting lists for day programs.

Desired Result: Increased opportunities for persons with MR/DD to participate in inclusive social, recreational, and meaningful day activities within their communities.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase the number of people with MR/DD participating in community social and recreational activities.	<p>Provide scholarships, memberships, and financial support for persons with MR/DD to participate in community activities.</p> <p>Assist community social and recreational locations in becoming more friendly and accessible for persons with MR/DD.</p>	Purchase of club memberships, class fees, scholarships, and tickets	Purchase of season tickets for a specific agency so advance planning can occur for event attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies serving persons with MR/DD • ACCESS (Access Austin Arts) • ATCMHMR • Travis County Health and Human Services • MR/DD Planning Partnership • STS/Capital • Metro • ARCIL
Increase the number of people with MR/DD participating in appropriate, meaningful day activities	Development of minimal standards/certification for day programs providing site-based services.			
Continued improvement in transportation for people with special needs.	<p>Develop a formal recommendation from consumers and families to STS/Capital Metro to enhance transportation that is reliable, cost-effective, and flexible.</p> <p>Greater investment in fixed route bus training.</p>			

Urgent Issue III: There is no coordinated, responsible system for responding to persons with MR/DD who are in crisis.

Data: No Data

Desired Result: Increased resources and response time for persons with MR/DD who are in crisis.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
<p>Improve response time for services and supports when persons or caregivers of persons with MR/DD experience a crisis.</p>	<p>Identify a crisis phone number, a method of triage for crisis calls, and develop a system to track the scope of crisis needs.</p> <p>Provide training on crisis counseling for organizations and individuals who work with people with MR/DD.</p> <p>Train consumers, family members, public safety professionals, and residential providers on crisis resolution resources and activities.</p>	<p>Funding for professional development of materials and training curriculum</p>	<p>MR/DD Planning Partnership is initiating discussions and planning efforts to determine investment opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arc of the Capital Area • Subcommittee of MR/DD Planning Partnership • Safeplace • ATCMHMR • Safeplace

Urgent Issue IV: Increase access for persons with MR/DD to obtain appropriate services, such as respite, affordable and accessible care, and specialized assistance.
Data: In Travis County, there are over 1000 persons with MR/DD waiting for appropriate services.
Desired Result: Increased supports and resources available for people with MR/DD and for their families, especially in the areas of respite options, affordable and accessible care, and specialized assistance.

SOLUTIONS	ACTIONS	FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	HUMAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES	EXAMPLES OF ONGOING EFFORTS
Increase the number of people with MR/DD and/or families receiving respite care services.	Develop a drop-in respite center for adults and children. Increase the pool of trained caregivers.	Financial backing or donation of a physical space for the drop-in center Funding to print and distribute resource map	Expert assistance in curriculum development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ARC of the Capital Area • Any Baby Can Child and Family Resource Center ATCMHMR • Easter Seals of Central Texas • ACC • First Call to Help and Hotline to Help
Increase the number of families with improved resources in caring for persons with MR/DD, especially for persons with extreme behaviors.	Develop a network of trained parent coaches and behavior coaches. Implement support groups for families and caregivers.			
Increase the number of people with MR/DD and/or families accessing adequate support systems.	Publish an MR/DD resource map.			