Transition Supports for Parents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Partnership

The GUCEDD is proposing an innovative approach to a transition pilot focused on the population of parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their children (infancy through young adulthood) who live in the District of Columbia in a variety of residential settings (or other jurisdictions under the auspices of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). All parents face challenges as their children transition from infancy to toddler and from preschool to elementary/primary school, middle school, high school, and young adulthood including post-secondary education opportunities and employment. Parents with IDD however, face greater challenges for an array of reasons that are well documented in the literature including how to support their children’s successful growth, development, education, health, and emotional well-being. Parents with IDD experience even more challenges when their children have developmental delays, disabilities, special health care or behavioral health needs. These parents also face stereotyping, biases, and other barriers about their capacity to parent because of their disabilities.

The GUCEDD proposes a partnership across child and adult agencies (public and private sector) to engage in a planning process and create a comprehensive plan of action for cross-system services that parents with IDD will need to support their children’s developmental transitions. The process will make astute use of frameworks such as life course, cultural and linguistic competence, child and adolescent developmental norms, convergence of cultural contexts, self-determination, and person-centered practices.

The project will be conducted over one-year period of time and involve establishing a structure for a diverse array of key stakeholders including parents with IDD.

**Goal:** Convene a partnership in the District of Columbia to develop a sustainable plan that addresses the unique needs of parents with IDD to support the transition of their children with and without disabilities throughout the life course.

**Objectives**

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of cross-system services for parents with IDD to examine the extent to which they are responsive to parental needs to support their children as they transition from early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, to young adulthood.

2. Engage in a consensus process to develop a city-wide cross-system action plan that describes a set of core principles, identifies barriers, gaps, and current capacity, delineates best and promising practices, and advances the implementation of a pilot that enables parents with IDD to support the transition of their children throughout the life course.