



## **DRDC Public Input Survey for Fiscal Year 2024**

Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (“DRDC”) is a private, non-profit organization that protects and promotes the rights of persons who have disabilities in the District of Columbia. DRDC is authorized to do its work by federal laws that also require that we identify priorities each year that will determine which cases we accept, what kind of training and education we provide, and what systemic issues we will address.

Every year we ask persons who have disabilities, their family members and other interested individuals to tell us what kinds of issues and problems they think DRDC should work to improve.

In this survey, we want you to tell us about the most important issues affecting the rights and services of individuals with disabilities in the District of Columbia. Please contact DRDC if you would like to complete the survey in an alternate format.

If you would like to see a copy of our current goals, priorities and objectives, you can call (202) 547-0198 to request a copy. You can also download a copy from our website at [www.uls-dc.org](http://www.uls-dc.org).

Because DRDC cannot address every issue of concern to individuals with disabilities, we are asking for your help in selecting those that are most important. For each category below, please check the issues of importance to you.

***Please return the survey by September 30, 2023.***

***You can submit it via email to [jbrown@uls-dc.org](mailto:jbrown@uls-dc.org) or in the mail to Jane Brown at University Legal Services, 220 I Street, NE., Ste. 130, Washington, D.C. 20002.***

**Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (“PAIMI”) –  
The purpose of the PAIMI program is to protect and advocate for the  
rights of individuals with significant mental illness.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

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- Representing individuals to get better quality, person-centered mental health services and housing in the community.
  - Advocating to improve community-based, mental health treatment for youth.
  - Representing individuals in complaints about abusive or neglectful conduct or rights violations by facilities and/or community mental health providers.
  - Investigating allegations of abuse or neglect by mental health facilities and providers, including improper seclusion, restraint.
  - Conducting outreach and education about individual rights, community inclusion, and community resources.
  - Advocating for the right of people with disabilities to make their own decisions.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities ("PADD") - The purpose of the PADD program is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are provided services that promote independence, integration and inclusion in the community.**

**Please check issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Investigating allegations of abuse and neglect by facilities and providers on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating for quality services from DDS, DC Medicaid, DYRS and other DC agencies.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating for the right of people with developmental disabilities to make their own decisions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating for special education services in the least restrictive environment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating for quality secondary transition services in DC Public Schools and public charter schools.

\_\_\_\_\_ Conducting outreach and education about individual rights, community inclusion, and community services and resources.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating to improve community-based services for youth with significant emotional and developmental challenges.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights ("PAIR") - The purpose of the PAIR program is to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities who are not eligible for services under other protection and advocacy programs.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating for equal access to private businesses (that are open to the public), polling sites, and governmental facilities and programs by individuals with mobility, hearing, and/or visual disabilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Investigating allegations of abuse and/or neglect on behalf of people with disabilities who wish to transition from nursing facilities and/or live in the community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Promoting self-determination, consumer choice, and high quality services for people with disabilities in the most integrated, appropriate settings.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities to challenge improper Medicaid home health service terminations, denials or reductions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating to ensure people in nursing facilities have information about alternatives to nursing facilities, and transition assistance for people who want to move back to the community with the Medicaid home health services they need.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security ("PABSS") - The purpose of the PABSS program is to provide information and advocacy about obtaining vocational, employment and other supports to any recipient of Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") or Social Security Disability Income ("SSDI") who is trying to regain employment.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

- Assisting social security beneficiaries with disputes before the Social Security Administration involving work-related benefit decisions that are a barrier to securing, maintaining or regaining employment.
- Advocating against employment discrimination that serves as a barrier to work for social security beneficiaries.
- Educating beneficiaries of social security and the community on the availability of work incentives and employment programs.
- Assisting beneficiaries with access to opportunities to prepare for employment.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA) - The purpose of PAVA is to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote and accessing polling places.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocating to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to vote independently at DC polling places and to vote independently with accessible vote-by-mail alternatives.

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing education and advocacy on the rights of DC voters with disabilities in the community and institutions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Monitoring the accessibility of polling places and voting equipment for people with mobility, visual and/or hearing disabilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tabulating polling access survey data and issuing reports on accessibility barriers.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology ("PAAT") - The purpose of PAAT is to ensure that people with disabilities receive access to assistive technology that meets their needs and promotes their choices and inclusion in community life.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

- Advocating for people with disabilities to obtain properly fitted wheelchairs, other medical equipment and assistive technology that maximizes their independence.
- Advocating for full access for people with disabilities using assistive technology and other accommodations at polling places, governmental facilities, and public accommodations.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury ("PATBI") - The purpose of PATBI is to ensure that people with TBIs are afforded the full rights and entitlements accorded to them by the Constitution, local, and federal law and are provided services that promote independence, integration, and inclusion in the community.**

**Please check the issues you feel are important for DRDC to work on:**

- Advocating for the successful inclusion of individuals with traumatic brain injury in community life.
- Investigating allegations of abuse or neglect by facilities and providers on behalf of individuals with traumatic brain injury.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Educating individuals about their legal rights, community inclusion, and the availability of existing community-based services and supports and how to access them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Promoting expansion and responsiveness of service providers and agencies who serve individuals who have TBIs through educating community leaders and stakeholders about the need for more appropriate and coordinated TBI services.

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Please use this space to provide any comments, suggestions or concerns about ULS and the services it provides to individuals with disabilities:**

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**Please check below all descriptions that apply to you. Providing this information is voluntary. The information will assist ULS in ensuring that the survey represents the full diversity of the District of Columbia.**



- Person with a disability/consumer
- Family member/guardian/friend
- Representative of a public agency
- Advocate/attorney
- Service Provider
- Teacher
- Legislator
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time and assistance! To sign up for our email list please provide your contact information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this survey via email to [jbrown@uls-dc.org](mailto:jbrown@uls-dc.org) or return the survey to Jane Brown at University Legal Services, 220 I Street, NE., Ste.130, Washington, D.C. 20002 by September 30, 2023.