

Executive Director Orientation and Leadership Academy

Section I

Administration on Developmental Disabilities

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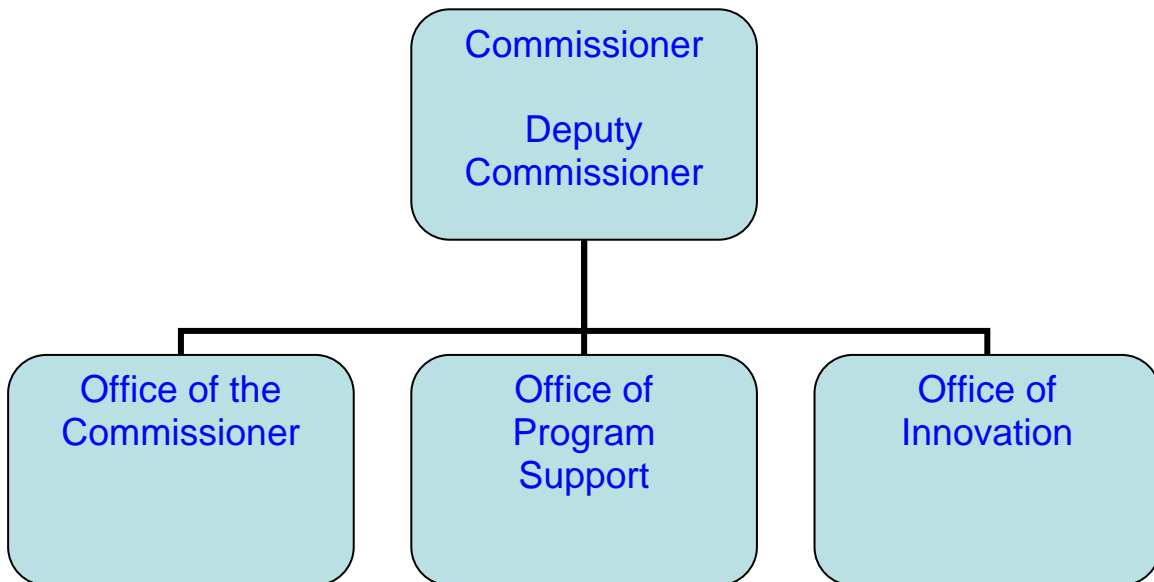
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDES MORE THAN 300 PROGRAMS. One of the agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services is the Administration on Children and Families (ACF)

ACF is responsible for some 60 programs that promote the economic and social well-being of children, families and communities.

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is the U.S. Government organization responsible for implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, known as the DD Act. ADD, its staff and programs, are part of the Administration for Children and Families, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**ADD's New Organizational Structure
Effective January 1, 2011**



The ADD organizational structure now includes three components: the Office of the Commissioner, the Office of Program Support, and the Office of Innovation.

The Office of the Commissioner will continue to provide executive leadership and management strategies for all components of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and serve as the principal advisor on matters related to individuals with developmental disabilities to the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, the Secretary, and other elements of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Office of Program Support now provides coordination, oversight, management and evaluation of the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the Protection and Advocacy Systems, the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and their related technical assistance contracts.

Finally, the Office of Innovation is responsible for the coordination, oversight, management and evaluation of the Projects of National Significance and grants under the Help America Vote Act, as well as communication and data management.

ADD Description of Programs

The [Developmental Disabilities Act](#) requires ADD to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need and participate in the planning and designing of those services. The DD Act established eight areas of emphasis for ADD programs; Employment, Education, Child Care, Health, Housing, Transportation, Recreation, and Quality Assurance. ADD meets the requirements of the DD Act through the work of its four programs:

1. [State Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(SCDD\)](#)

Each state has a Developmental Disabilities Council that functions to increase the independence, productivity, inclusion, and community integration of people with developmental disabilities. DDC activities demonstrate new ideas for enhancing people's lives through training activities, through community education and support, by making information available to policy-makers, and by eliminating barriers.

2. [Protection and Advocacy Agencies \(P&A\)](#)

Each state has a Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System to empower, protect, and advocate on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. The P&As are independent of service-providing agencies and offer information and referral services for legal, administrative, and other remedies to resolve problems for individuals and groups of clients. P&As enhance the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities by investigating incidents of abuse and neglect and discrimination based on disability. The P&As also provide an annual opportunity for the public to comment on the objectives, priorities, and activities of the system. This gives clients and others in the community an opportunity to voice their concerns and needs to the P&A.

3. [University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#) Education, Research and Services (UCEDD)

UCEDD is a grant program providing support to a national network of University Centers to support interdisciplinary training, exemplary services, technical assistance, and information/ dissemination activities. University Centers positively affect the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by increasing their independence, productivity, and integration into communities. University Centers have four broad tasks: conduct interdisciplinary training, promote community service programs, provide technical assistance at all levels (from local service delivery to community and state governments), and conduct research and dissemination activities.

4. [Projects of National Significance \(PNS\)](#)

The PNS program awards grants and contracts that promote and increase the independence, productivity, inclusion and integration into the community of persons with developmental disabilities. These projects focus on the most pressing issues for people with developmental disabilities across the country. These projects may involve research, technical assistance, projects which improve supportive living and quality of life opportunities, projects to educate policymakers, and efforts to create interagency Federal collaboration.

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) & Its Relationship with Councils

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is the federal administering agency for the DD Act programs. As such, ADD is charged with funding and oversight of State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy Programs, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. Thus, *State Councils on Developmental Disabilities are grantees of ADD – and are accountable to ADD.*

ADD develops program regulations and provides technical assistance and guidance to state programs. Central office and regional office staff are assigned to assist programs in each of the federal regions; these staff members are available and helpful. Should the Developmental Disabilities Council encounter problems or need assistance, they can contact the ADD personnel assigned to their region for information and technical assistance. Annually, ADD sponsors a Technical Assistance Institute for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

All mandated state plans and fiscal and programmatic reports are submitted to and approved by ADD. This information is used to develop legislatively prescribed reports to Congress. Periodically, ADD conducts monitoring site visits using the Monitoring and Technical Assistance Review System (MTARS) to assure compliance and accountability.

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