

Principles for Developing Public Policy

1. Stakeholders with disabilities, and when warranted, family members, must be included in policymaking decisions to develop the rationale and goals for proposed policy and develop methods of administration and accountability. In addition, stakeholders must be present in development of policies to ensure that initiatives conform to best practices and relevant evidence to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.
2. Policies must account for the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of each person with a disability, including individuals with significant disabilities.
3. Policies and procedures foster the empowerment of persons with disabilities, to make real and informed choice, and actively participate in the decision-making process at the individual and system level.
4. Policies and procedures foster the ability and capabilities of individuals with disabilities to live independently with appropriate supports.
5. Outcome measures for public programs must address issues of specific relevance to persons with disabilities.
6. Policies for public programs must include relevant and adequate data measures, including necessary disaggregated data about disability, to ensure a program is meeting the needs of persons with disabilities or persons with specific categories of disabilities as part of a process of continuous improvement.