

**PRESS RELEASE
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The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (CDDC) and The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People proudly announce the (community/region) regional forum, featuring presentations by fellow Colorado citizens concerning cutting-edge ideas for people with disabilities and their family members being active and contributing members of their communities.

Come hear about (grantee or featured presentation by people with disabilities and family members about going to school, having jobs that pay livable wages, and being involved in community organizations and activities). We will begin the forum with presentations and information from the Council and The Legal Center, share a meal together (food is provided at no cost), and then, in a focus group, let the Council and The Legal Center know some of the important issues and concerns for people with disabilities and their family members in our region of Colorado.

Overview of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council and The Legal Center

There are Developmental Disabilities Councils and Protection & Advocacy organizations in each of the states and territories in the United States. In 1978 the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (the DD Act) first created the Council, along with the Legal Center and JFK Partners, which is the University Center for Excellence in Research on Disability. The Council, The Legal Center, and JFK Partners work together with and on behalf of people with disabilities in Colorado.

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council advocates for the development and implementation of public policy and cutting-edge practices that further the independence, self-determination and inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities. The Legal Center protects and advocates the legal and human rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. All three organizations follow the federal definition of developmental disability, which is broader and more inclusive than the Colorado definition.

The Larimer County forum will take place in the Community Room at the Harmony Library. The room is located immediately to the right of the main entrance on the west side. The Forum will be held from 3:00pm until 8:00pm. Transportation is available through Tranfort Buses which are handicapped accessible and wheel chair accessible. For transportation after hours, there are cabs available that are accessible. There will be vendor tables available for any providers or other community members with information they would like to disseminate to the attendees. Vendors should contact the regional coordinator. Hearing impaired attendees should rsvp to coordinator for arrangements for sign services. The same for Spanish speaking attendees that would like to have interpretation services. Both will be offered free of charge of course.

Please try to invite as many people to come as possible. This forum is open to the public and any interested people, families and person with disabilities that would like to have input on how the funding from the federal monies is used to provide services in our area. This is our opportunity to make sure that all of our citizens are included and served in a manner that makes inclusion a matter of course in our everyday lives and theirs. Thank you for your support.

Rhonda D Stute
CDDC Regional Forum Coordinator