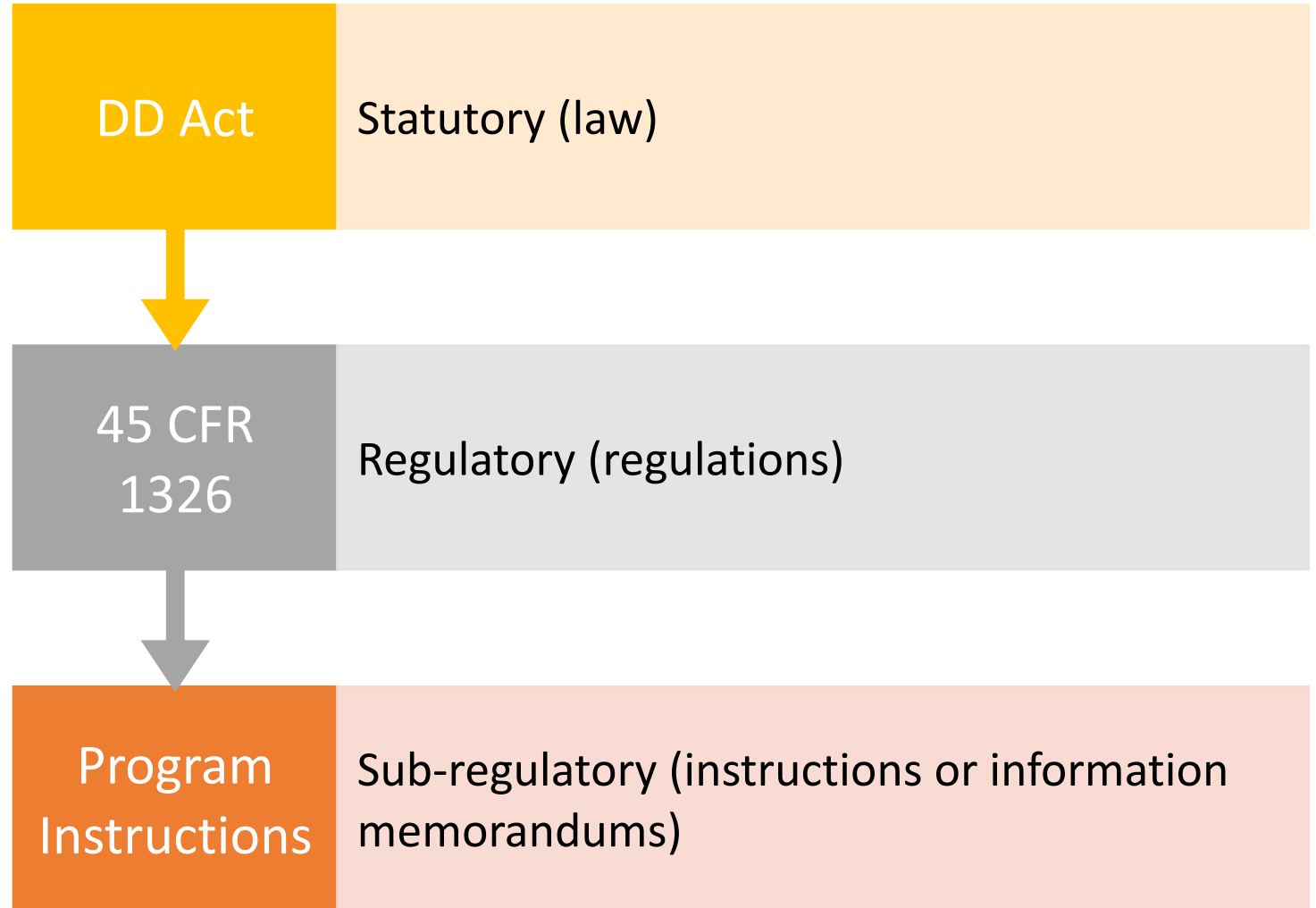




Guidelines for Councils advocating positions and
giving advise

Educating Policymakers

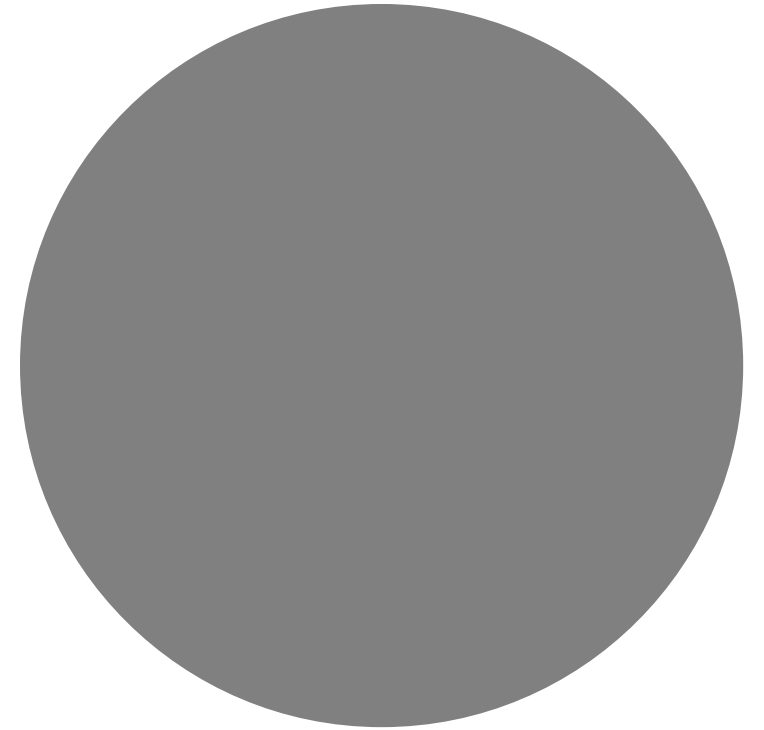
The Statutory and Regulatory Framework



The Council shall serve as an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities and conduct or support programs, projects, and activities that carry out the purpose of this subtitle.



What does the DD Act say?



What does the
“final rule” say?

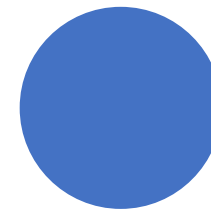
Broadened “Advocacy activities”
definition:

“[A]ctive support of policies and practices that promote systems change efforts and other activities that further advance self-determination and inclusion in ***all aspects of community living*** (including housing, education, employment, and other aspects) for individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families.”

- Maintained the position that advocacy should be balanced and non-partisan.
- Clarified that “grantees may use non-federal funds for other policy related activities in accordance with relevant federal and state laws.”

Note: Nonpartisan means a lack of affiliation with and a lack of bias towards a political party.

Additional final rule guidance on activities



Program Instruction to Councils

Emphasize

Emphasize nonpartisan analysis, study, and research;

Use

Use a nonpartisan approach;

Emphasize

Emphasize the Council role as a source of information and advice in helping legislators (and other policymakers) evaluate and identify alternatives for meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

What can Councils do?

Free to advocate a position or viewpoint

Councils are free to advocate a position or viewpoint
AS LONG AS:



Full and fair description of the issue to help the policymaker form an independent opinion or conclusion



Do not present unsupported opinions or facts;



Do not use inflammatory or derogatory terms;



Avoid conclusions based on emotional feelings rather than objective factual conclusions;

Councils can advise legislators and others on the adoption of legislation
AS LONG AS

Approach is balanced

Discussion includes the
advantages and disadvantages
and comparisons to other
proposals under consideration
is included

A Council does not
have to be neutral
about outcomes
for people with
developmental
disabilities – BUT...

Must demonstrate
an unbiased
attitude when
considering
alternatives for
meeting needs

Advocating a position

What a Council CANNOT do

Lobby

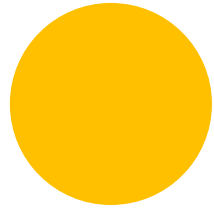
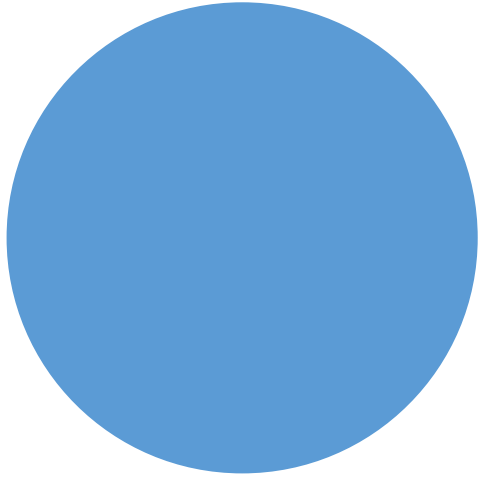
Lobbying

What is it?

- When a person or group attempts to influence the decisions of government

What are some activities of lobbying?

- Telling a policymaker how to vote on appropriations (vote Yes, vote No)
- Direct campaign contributions, direct contributions to a political party
- Telling a policymaker how to vote on federal, state, or local legislation (vote Yes, vote No)



Questions?

