Our focus areas are the goals we work on every day to achieve full equality and justice for people with disabilities. We have to establish priorities because, after we address abuse and neglect issues, we do not have the resources necessary to tackle all of the issues facing people with disabilities at one time.

Through public input and our work with clients, we identify problems that are widespread or pose the greatest threat to the independence of people with disabilities. Then we develop priorities to address those problems with the funding we receive.

**Abuse & Neglect**

Focus Area 1: DRCT will decrease exposure to abuse and neglect, seclusion and/or restraint (including chemical restraint) and improve compliance with protected rights of people with disabilities.

Objective 1: Review reports of Serious Injury or Death due to restraint and seclusion in facilities, conduct further investigation as necessary and issue a report, if appropriate.

Objective 2: Conduct periodic monitoring to expose unidentified instances of abuse/neglect by a service provider of people with disabilities.

Objective 3: Respond to abuse and neglect allegations and patient’s rights violations of people with disabilities living in facilities or in the community in order to identify systemic issues to effect change in practice, policy, rule or law.

Objective 4: Monitor, investigate, advocate and bring legal action when appropriate when a person is denied services in Emergency Rooms by filing complaints with the Department of Public Health or other appropriate agency.

Objective 5: Release report on Whiting Investigation and follow up on recommendations made in the report.

Objective 6: Strengthen oversight of representative payees by performing onsite reviews of payee performance, on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA).
Objective 7: Represent individuals in involuntary medication proceedings in Connecticut and develop a report and recommendations based on the outcomes of the proceedings.

Objective 8: Conduct periodic facility monitoring to promote voter registration and participation for people with disabilities.

**Education**

Focus Area 2: DRCT will ensure that students with disabilities are afforded educational services necessary for success in post-secondary or work environments.

Objective 1: Provide information and referral, advocacy and legal representation where necessary to assist students who are eligible for or denied accommodations in post-secondary education settings.

Objective 2: Provide information and referral, advocacy and legal representation where necessary to students to ensure appropriate transition services.

Objective 3: Assist transition aged and post-secondary education students to register to vote.

**Employment**

Focus Area 3: DRCT will promote independent living, competitive integrated employment, and access to the state Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

Objective 1: Provide advocacy and legal representation where appropriate to individuals determined ineligible for state vocational rehabilitation programs.

Objective 2: Provide advocacy and legal representation for clients of the state vocational rehabilitation system where necessary to advance a client’s desired employment outcome.

Objective 3: Provide limited advocacy regarding requesting reasonable accommodations to obtain/maintain employment.

Objective 4: Provide advocacy and legal representation where necessary to secure transportation as part of an educational transition plan or vocational rehabilitation services.
Community Living

Focus Area 4: Address barriers to full participation and independent living for people with disabilities by ensuring access to services and programs from government and public accommodations.

Objective 1: Educate policymakers, probate judges and the public and provide advocacy and legal representation when needed to create Supported Decision Making plans for people with disabilities.

Objective 2: Increase voter registration and participation through REVUP and other targeted activities.

Objective 3: Provide limited advocacy and legal representation to individuals being denied effective communication by healthcare providers.

Objective 4: Provide advocacy and legal representation to individuals denied reasonable accommodations/modifications in housing.

Objective 5: Challenge discrimination to eliminate barriers to physical accessibility in public and private entities for people with disabilities.

Outreach and Training

Focus Area 5: Develop and sponsor disability rights related training events, outreach events and informational materials to promote awareness and keep the public informed of DRCT activities.

Objective 1: Work with parent and disability organizations to educate families about their rights regarding restraint/seclusion.

Objective 2: Review, update and develop informational materials to provide education and information on the rights of people with disabilities.

Objective 3: Provide trainings in response to community requests such as Candidates Forum/Voting Rights, Emergency Preparedness, Trauma Informed Care, Effective Communication, Obligations of Rep Payees/ Rights of Beneficiaries, ADA Rights/Employment Accommodations, Right to Assistive Technology (AT).

Objective 4: Continue to increase internet presence on website and other Social Media.
Core Services

Focus Area 6: DRCT will provide information, referral, technical assistance, and appropriate resource materials to individuals contacting DRCT, and assist people with disabilities to register to vote.

Objective 1: Provide reliable timely, information, referral, technical assistance, and voter registration to all individuals contacting DRCT for assistance.