



**MAKE
YOUR
MARK!**

Make Your Mark! Conference
September 18–19, 2025

IOWA DDCouncil

Preparation, Participation, Power

GAME ON!

IT'S TIME TO ADVOCATE

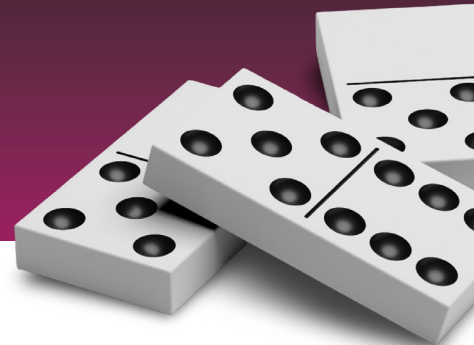
THE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

All general sessions, keynotes, and meal events will be held in the Heartland Ballroom.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	
TIME	SESSION
8:00 AM–9:30 AM	REGISTRATION EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAKFAST
9:30 AM–10:30 AM	KEYNOTE: Mastering ‘Matthew’s Tool Box’ to Stay the Course and Advocate for Issues You Believe In
10:30 AM–11:00 AM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK
11:00 AM–12:00 PM	GENERAL SESSION LEGISLATIVE PANEL
12:00 PM–1:30 PM	LUNCH LEGISLATIVE GAME AND POLICY DISCUSSION
1:30 PM–2:00 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK
2:00 PM–3:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Minnesota Room	Iowa Blueprint for Change: From Plan to Action
Wisconsin Room	Pregame Poetry
Heartland Ballroom	Workplace Accommodation Strategies
3:00 PM–3:15 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK
3:15 PM–4:15 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Heartland Ballroom	Advocating for Your Disability Can Get Your Game On
Bennigan’s Meeting Room	Understanding ABLE Accounts: A Path to Financial Independence
Minnesota Room	Introduction to Nonprofit Leadership Roles
Wisconsin Room	Level Up: The Infinite Spectrum
4:15 PM–4:30 PM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK
4:30 PM–5:00 PM	FREE TIME
5:00 PM–7:00 PM	DINNER TALENT SHOW COMEDY NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19	
TIME	SESSION
7:15 AM–8:15 AM	REGISTRATION EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAKFAST
8:15 AM–8:45 AM	KEYNOTE: Iowa Health and Human Services
9:00 AM–10:00 AM	KEYNOTE: Welcome to the Big Leagues
10:15 AM–10:30 AM	EXHIBITOR FAIR BREAK
10:30 AM–11:30 AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Minnesota Room	Benefits Bingo: Path to Financial Independence
Wisconsin Room	Game On: Advocating for Assistive Technology to Unlock Your Goals
Heartland Ballroom	Community Inclusion
Bennigan’s Meeting Room	Living with Disabilities and Leadership
11:30 AM–12:30 PM	LUNCH AWARDS PRIZE DRAWING

GENERAL INFORMATION



Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm make this conference possible!

Wendy Andersen 🎯

Julie Bergeson

Rachel Bussan

Dakota Caldwell

Edward Esbeck

Eric Evans

Kevin Harris

Mike Hoenig 🎯

Hugh Kelly 🎯

Andrea Maher

Caitlin Owens

Daryn Richardson

Charlene Wyatt Sauer 🎯

George Thompson

Stella Thompson

Judy Warth

Brady Werger 🎯

Casey Wilkinson 🎯

These volunteers also served on the Planning Committee.



Awards Presentation

Each year, the Make Your Mark! Conference recognizes outstanding advocates and leaders who have made a lasting impact in the disability community.

Mia Peterson Self-Advocacy Award



Mia Peterson was a self-advocate who dedicated her life to advancing the rights of people with disabilities. After her passing in 2021, this award honors Iowans with disabilities who carry on Mia's legacy by speaking up, driving change, and inspiring others.

Rik Shannon Disability Champion Award



Rik Shannon dedicated over 20 years to improving the lives of Iowans with disabilities as the Iowa DD Council's Public Policy Manager. This award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to champion disability rights and inclusion.

This year's awards will be presented during the Friday General Session in the Heartland Ballroom. Don't miss the chance to celebrate and be inspired by the awardees!

Calming Room Sponsored by Easterseals Iowa

Located downstairs in the Iowa Board Room and Annex, the Calming Room is a space for anyone who needs a break during the conference.

Prize Drawing

Every attendee has a chance to win! Complete the game board on page 19 and you'll be entered into the prize drawing. Winners will be announced during Friday's lunch. Must be present to win.

KEYNOTE



Matthew Shapiro

Founder, 6 Wheels Consulting

Matthew is a lifelong disability advocate and consultant who founded 6 Wheels Consulting.

Matthew has worked with organizations nationwide to improve inclusion and expand understanding of disability issues. He has served on numerous boards and spoken at conferences across the country.

FUN FACT: Matthew is passionate about helping others understand disability and inclusion.

9:30 AM–10:30 AM

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Mastering ‘Matthew’s Tool Box’ to Stay the Course and Advocate for Issues You Believe In

Advocacy is a journey that takes time, patience, and strength. It comes with ups and downs, and the policy process can feel exhausting. But staying the course matters—speaking up makes a difference for you, your community, and the people you care about.

Matthew Shapiro, America’s Disability Adviser™, has spent more than 10 years as a lobbyist in the Virginia General Assembly. During that time, he helped pass key laws, including ending the use of subminimum wage in Virginia, removing the word “Handicapped” from state code, and creating a streamlined application process to make it easier for people with disabilities to apply for state jobs.

In this session, Matthew will share his “Advocacy Tool Box,” which includes: persistence, patience, coalition-building, resilience, showing up, handling “no,” celebrating small wins, managing frustration, using the Honey Theory of negotiation, and balancing friendliness with directness.

He’ll also share stories from his own experiences and offer an outsider’s perspective on Iowa’s “Work Without Worry” legislation. Most importantly, he’ll answer your questions. Matthew hopes you’ll leave this keynote with fresh tools, renewed energy, and the motivation to make change—one policy at a time.

9|18|25
THURSDAY

GENERAL SESSIONS



11:00 AM–12:00 PM

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Legislative Panel

Panel of Elected Officials
Moderated by Dave Price

Legislators will speak from personal experience about their interests and goals in disability policy and will give advocates advice on how to make an impact.

12:00 PM–1:30 PM

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Lunch | Legislative Game and Policy Discussion

Join Iowa Legislators for an engaging lunch session and a unique opportunity to sit down with lawmakers for a hands-on public policy game.

Together, we'll explore key issues for the upcoming legislative session. Through collaboration and creative thinking, participants will propose solutions, set priorities, and compete for a special prize awarded to the best idea.

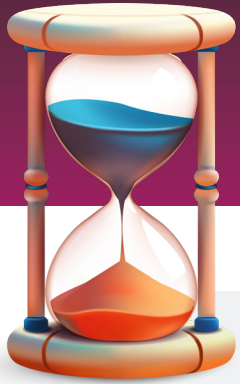
Don't miss this chance to share your voice and help shape the future of disability policy!

Dinner, Talent Show, and Comedy Night

THURSDAY 5:00 PM–7:00 PM

Enjoy dinner and an evening of entertainment starting with performances from fellow attendees. You might see music, poetry, dance, or other hidden talents take the stage—there's sure to be a surprise or two!

The night wraps up with comedy from self-advocate Zach Mecham, whose humor and storytelling are sure to leave you laughing.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

MINNESOTA ROOM

Iowa Blueprint for Change: From Plan to Action

Ashley Hazen

This hands-on session introduces the Iowa Blueprint for Change—a plan created by and for people with disabilities to improve life for everyone in the community.

You'll discover how to use the blueprint to speak up for yourself, grow as a leader, and make a difference where you live. Through stories, activities, and simple planning tools, you'll create your own action plan and take real steps toward your goals.

WISCONSIN ROOM

Pregame Poetry

Sharon Ruth Hensley

Caring for yourself is key to being able to care for others. Poetry can be a simple, creative way to work through feelings, reduce stress, and make decisions.

In this session, poet Sharon Ruth Hensley—who lives with multiple disabilities—will guide participants in using free verse and Haiku as tools for journaling and self-care. After a short lesson, you'll get to create your own poems with support if needed, and leave with materials and strategies to keep poetry as part of your self-care routine.

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Workplace Accommodation Strategies

Catherine Johnson,
Carly Ott, Gloria Soto

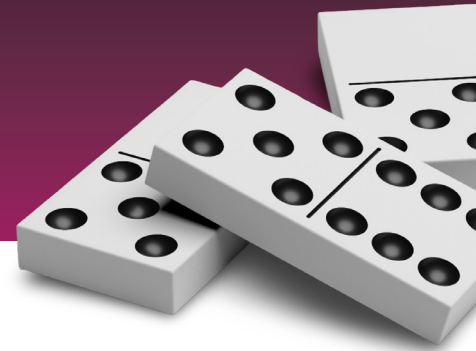
Learn what Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) says about your rights at work. This session will break down the protections the ADA provides in hiring, the workplace, and beyond.

You'll gain practical tools and strategies to help you speak up for yourself, request accommodations, and feel more confident navigating the employment process.

9|18|25
THURSDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:15 PM–4:15 PM



HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Advocating for Your Disability Can Get Your Game On

Vickie Setterberg

Advocacy can be life-changing. In this session, the presenter shares their journey from battling depression to speaking across the U.S. about living with a disability and encouraging others who may be newly diagnosed or struggling. With a background in psychology, they will discuss the emotional challenges they faced, how they overcame them, and how advocacy helped them grow into the leader they are today.

BENNIGAN'S MEETING ROOM

Understanding ABLE Accounts: A Path to Financial Independence

Victoria Newton

IAble (Iowa's Achieving a Better Life Experience program) helps people with disabilities save for the future and gain greater financial independence. This session provides a clear overview of ABLE accounts and how they can benefit you.

MINNESOTA ROOM

Introduction to Nonprofit Leadership Roles

Carly Ott

Learn what it means to serve in a nonprofit leadership role. Drawing from her experience as a self-advocate on more than a dozen boards and committees, the presenter will explain the types of nonprofits and how to get involved as a volunteer leader. You'll learn how to check whether a nonprofit is reputable and financially sound, what accommodations can support you in these roles, and where to find additional resources.

WISCONSIN ROOM

Level Up: The Infinite Spectrum

Andrea Velasquez, Ethan Velasquez

In this presentation, the speakers share their personal experiences as autistic self-advocates. Using hands-on tools and examples, they will explain the wide variety within the autism spectrum and help participants understand how each person's experience is unique.

GENERAL SESSION

KEYNOTE

8:15 AM–8:45 AM

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Breakfast Keynote

Iowa Health and Human Services

Zach Rhein, Aging and Disability
Services Division Director
(Executive Assistant Christel
Oberbroeckling)

Lee Grossman, Iowa Medicaid
Director (Executive Assistant
Natalie Bryant)

Kera Oestreich, Iowa Medicaid
Deputy Administrator

Andrea Maher, Iowa Medicaid
Long-Term Services and
Supports Bureau Chief

Leaders from Iowa Health and
Human Services will provide
updates and share information
on programs and priorities that
affect Iowans with disabilities and
their families.

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Welcome to the Big Leagues

This session is your formal
introduction to advocacy at
the highest level.

Congratulations, you're in the
show now.

No matter who you are, the connections you have, or the skills
you think you lack, everyone has a place in this work. It's time to
step up to the plate, give it your all, and leave it all on the field as
we advocate for change together.

Zach Mecham

Entrepreneur, Advocate, and Entertainer

Zach helps businesses market themselves online and also
performs stand-up comedy. He has been a strong advocate for
Medicaid, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and
ending asset and income limits for people with disabilities. In his
free time, he enjoys movies, creative projects, and DIY tinkering.

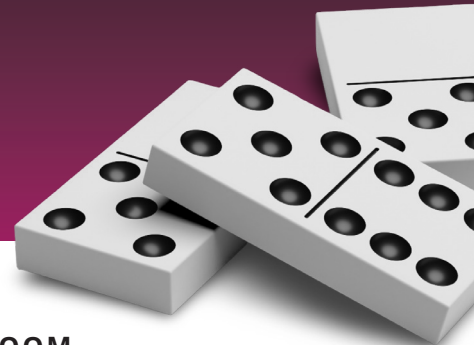
Fun Fact: Zach is equally comfortable advocating at the
statehouse as he is when telling jokes in a dive bar.



09 | 19 | 25
FRIDAY

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:30 AM–11:30 AM



MINNESOTA ROOM

Benefits Bingo: Path to Financial Independence

Mistie Johnson, Tammy Crouch, Jenny Lynes

Social Security disability benefits can feel like a confusing mix of rules and acronyms. In this session, WIPA will share clear strategies to help participants understand their options, take action on employment goals, and move closer to financial independence.

WISCONSIN ROOM

Game On: Advocating for Assistive Technology to Unlock Your Goals

Kevin Dalin, Ben Weigel

Not sure what support you need? The Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology (AT) Program helps you discover tools that make daily life safer, easier, and more independent. From learning and working to playing and connecting, AT opens new possibilities. In this session, you'll explore available services, see examples of devices, and build a game plan to reach your goals.

HEARTLAND BALLROOM

Community Inclusion

Todd Noack

Community inclusion is about making sure people with all abilities can take part in the communities they choose—whether that's at school, at work, in neighborhoods, or in social groups. This session will explore what true inclusion looks like, why it matters, and how you can help break down barriers so everyone feels valued and connected.

BENNIGAN'S MEETING ROOM

Living with Disabilities and Leadership

Monica Janelle, Sebastien Janelle, Simon Janelle

Advocacy is for everyone—students, adults, and community members. This session explores self-determination, speaking up for yourself, and advocating for others. A family of three will share how their advocacy has changed perceptions, improved outcomes, and brought purpose to their lives. Their stories will inspire you to find your voice, face challenges, and make an impact in your community.

SPEAKERS

Tammy Crouch

Community Work Incentives Coordinator, Disability Rights Iowa

Tammy holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management from Bellevue University. She has served as a Disability Navigator, Employment Specialist, Disability Resource Coordinator, and Benefits Planner, helping individuals access resources and employment opportunities.

Fun Fact: Tammy once spent nine days stuck on a cruise ship during a hurricane.

Kevin Dalin

Assistant Director of Rural Rehabilitation/Assistive Technology, Easterseals Iowa

Kevin earned a Master's in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling from Drake University and a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. A Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), he has supported Iowans with assistive technology since 2013 and

served on boards including Disability Rights Iowa, the Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council, and the Iowa Olmstead Consumer Taskforce.

Kevin also has lived experience with a mental health disability and a personal journey of recovery that led him back to health, education, and meaningful work.

Fun Fact: Kevin can often be found outdoors walking or biking, or in the kitchen cooking and baking.

Ashley Hazen

Project Director, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Ashley has lived with anxiety and ADHD for much of her adult life and is committed to helping others grow as advocates and leaders. She received the 2022 Iowa APSE Advocacy Award for her dedication to supporting people with disabilities.

Fun Fact: Ashley also teaches college classes.

Sharon Ruth Hensley

Poet and Multi-Genre Creative

Sharon has been writing poetry since the 1980s and seeks to entertain and elevate through her art. Her recent work has appeared in Lyrical Iowa's 2024 Anthology, Texas Bards Poetry Anthology 2024, and The Writers' Rooms Anthologies (2024, 2025).

Fun Fact: Sharon has been writing and publishing poetry for more than four decades.

Monica Janelle

Mother and Advocate

Monica is the mother of three boys, two with disabilities, and has been a lifelong advocate for them. Her family has faced and overcome challenges, including multiple moves, while continuing to share their story to inspire others.

Fun Fact: In the 1990s, Monica sold phones to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

SPEAKERS

Sebastien Janelle

**Assistant Pastry Chef,
Renaud's French Bakery**

Sebastien is autistic and a 2024 graduate of the University of Iowa UI REACH program. He has been a lifelong disability advocate, including three trips to Washington, D.C. to push for disability rights. He works full-time as an Assistant Pastry Chef in Santa Barbara, California, where he recently moved with his fiancée, Mia.

Fun Fact: Sebastien has met President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, and Pete Buttigieg, who once invited him on stage to share his story.

Simon Janelle

University of Iowa Hospital

Simon is a 2025 graduate of the University of Iowa UI REACH program. He has intellectual disabilities and currently works at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Despite being told he would never graduate high school,

Simon has become a lifelong advocate, including two trips to Washington, D.C. to speak on disability rights.

Fun Fact: Simon was named to the University of Iowa's traditional homecoming court in 2024.

Catherine Johnson

Executive Director, Disability Rights Iowa

Catherine holds a B.B.A., J.D., and a Master's in Higher Education from the University of Iowa. Her past roles include Assistant Dean of Students at St. Louis University School of Law, Director of Student Legal Services at the University of Iowa, and disability rights attorney at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas.

Fun Fact: Catherine's entire family is left-handed.

Mistie Johnson

President, Iowa APSE

Mistie holds an M.B.A. from Walden University and has

extensive experience supporting people with disabilities, including reducing employment barriers for youth, leading Ticket to Work initiatives, and serving as a Disability Navigator. She is currently President of Iowa APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First).

Fun Fact: Mistie has 12 tattoos, starting with her first at age 20.

Jenny Lynes

Community Work Incentives Coordinator, Disability Rights Iowa

Jenny earned a B.A. in History Education from Wartburg College and an M.A. in Student Affairs from the University of Northern Iowa.

Jenny specializes in breaking down complex regulations so people can understand and exercise their rights.

Fun Fact: By September 2025, Jenny will have completed four RAGBRAIs — including one as a support driver.

SPEAKERS

Todd Noack

Executive Director, Life Connections Peer Recovery Services

Todd holds the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (IC&RC) credential and has more than 20 years of leadership experience.

Todd has helped establish Iowa's only peer-run respite house and continues to advocate for peer support, recovery services, and community inclusion. Todd also draws on his own lived experience with addiction and recovery to support others.

Fun Fact: Todd is passionate about pro wrestling and motorcycles.

Kristi Onstot

Executive Secretary to Treasurer Smith

Kristi Onstot earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Iowa State University and has been with the State Treasurer's Office for six years.

Since March 2024, she has served as Executive Secretary to Treasurer Smith. She previously worked on the Outreach team, where she continues to play a key role in educating individuals across the state about IABLE.

Through webinars, Kristi highlights how the program empowers people with disabilities to save for current and future goals. Her favorite aspect of the job is connecting with account owners and their support networks, and hearing their inspiring success stories.

Fun Fact: Kristi and her husband stay busy raising their two sons on the family farm.

Carly Ott

Senior Vice President, International Corporation

Carly is an ADHD and autistic self-advocate with physical disabilities. She leads technology-based process improvements at her company and volunteers in employee networks for disability and neurodiversity.

Carly has served on the board of the Autism Society of America for over six years and has received numerous awards for advocacy, mentoring, and volunteering.

Fun Fact: Carly's superpower is untangling necklaces and holiday light strings — often without even looking.

Dave Price

Iowa Television Journalist, Author

Dave Price is a television reporter with decades of experience covering presidential candidates and the Iowa caucuses. A Belleville, Illinois native, he began his career at KMOX in St. Louis and later worked in Missouri and Alabama before settling in Des Moines in 2001.

Since then, he has specialized in political reporting, writing the "Dave Price's Perspectives" column on Substack, appearing as a national media analyst, and authoring two books: "Caucus Chaos" and "Caucus Chaos Trump." His work has earned a

SPEAKERS

national Emmy, an Edward R. Murrow Award, and numerous state and regional honors.

Fun Fact: Dave is a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan and lives in Urbandale with his wife and two children.

Vickie Setterberg

Advocate

Vickie holds a B.S. and M.A. and has extensive experience advocating for individuals with disabilities through leadership, community engagement, and mentoring.

Fun Fact: Vickie once helped a professional clown make balloon animals for an event with 15,000 kids.

Gloria Soto

Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Iowa

Gloria earned her bachelor's degree from UC San Diego in 2015 and her J.D. from Drake Law School in 2023. She worked in special education before law school and now represents

clients in employment, special education, Medicaid, and discrimination cases.

Fun Fact: Gloria is originally from California.

Andrea Velasquez

Special Education Teacher, Marion High School

Andrea has more than 23 years of experience teaching students with behavioral disorders in the Marion Independent School District. She is also the mother of Ethan and a passionate advocate for her students and family.

Fun Fact: Andrea enjoys traveling and exploring new places.

Ethan Velasquez

Student, Marion Independent School District

Ethan is in 7th grade and is autistic. He frequently presents about his experiences to raise awareness of autism and promote understanding of neurodiversity. Diagnosed at age 2, he shares his story to

help others appreciate the spectrum.

Fun Fact: Ethan has memorized the entire periodic table and has a twin sister who is not autistic.

Ben Weigel

Assistive Technology/Rural Solutions Statewide Professional, Easterseals Iowa

Ben joined Easterseals Iowa in 2024 and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University. He volunteers with the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa and is committed to accessibility and inclusion.

After experiencing a major personal and physical setback, he regained mobility and direction, which deepened his resilience and shaped how he supports others facing challenges.

Fun Fact: Ben used a power wheelchair for almost two years — an experience that taught him patience, resilience, and adaptability.

SPONSORS

JACKPOT SPONSOR



The Arc of Iowa connects people with disabilities, their families, professionals, and allies to create hope, growth, and change in local communities. The **Julie and Katie Beckett Advocacy Foundation** honors the legacy of Julie Beckett, whose tireless advocacy led to the creation of the Katie Beckett Medicaid waiver, allowing children with complex medical needs to be cared for at home by their families. Together, these organizations advance inclusion, empower families, and carry forward the fight for disability rights and community-based supports.

GAME MASTER SPONSOR



The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) provides training, technical assistance, pre-service education, continuing education, direct services, and information dissemination. They also engage in policy work toward the vision of a life in the community for everyone.

MVP SPONSOR



Molina Healthcare of Iowa is your new choice for Medicaid. Molina brings over 40 years of Medicaid experience and expertise in supporting members with complex needs, such as behavioral health and long-term services and supports.

PLAYMAKER SPONSOR



Wellpoint Iowa, an Elevance Health Company, improves access and quality of care for Iowans in Medicaid programs. Through innovative, patient-centered care management and community outreach, Wellpoint helps members take an active role in their health. With Wellpoint, our members' whole health is our whole point.

SPONSORS

STRATEGIZER SPONSORS



IAble helps individuals with disabilities and their families save and invest for Qualified Disability Expenses on a tax-advantaged basis—without risking essential federal benefits.



The Iowa HHS Division of Aging and Disability Services connects older Iowans, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers to services and supports that enhance independence, improve quality of life, and ensure dignity and security.



Iowa Total Care, a subsidiary of Centene Corporation, is a managed care organization that provides healthcare services and Iowa state-sponsored health insurance plans through local, regional, and community-based resources.

CALMING ROOM SPONSOR



The **Easterseals Iowa** Assistive Technology Program helps you find Assistive Technology (AT). This AT may support your daily activities while ensuring safety and independence. Activities may include learning, working, playing, and engaging in community life. AT is any device that helps you with tasks.

GENERAL SPONSORS



Iowa is home to over 3 million people, yet not all have equal access to oral healthcare. The **Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation** works to strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans.



Iowa APSE promotes employment for people with disabilities through training, resources, ethical practices, advocacy, and policy leadership.

EXHIBITORS



Allies in Advocacy is a collective of advocates fighting for disabled Iowans to be independent.



ASK (Access for Special Kids) Resource Center empowers people with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals who support them.



The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) is devoted to helping families affected by FTD and drives research to foster accurate diagnosis, treatments, and a cure.



Axis Therapy Center supports children and families living with autism, developmental disabilities, and other special needs, providing compassionate, personalized treatment.



Bridges 2 Advocacy, the nonprofit arm of EmpowerEd Consulting & Advocacy, makes special education advocacy accessible with resources, workshops, and low- or no-cost support for underserved families.



Ridge "Bubba" McCall, the heart behind **Bubba's Freeze Dried Foods**, was born with a complex heart condition and has endured two heart transplants and three strokes, resulting in major neurocognitive disorder. Refusing to be defined by these challenges, he launched his business to bring fun, flavor, and joy with every freeze-dried bite.



Caring Hearts of West Central Iowa supports children and adults receiving Medicaid waiver and habilitation services by providing personalized care, skill-building, and support.



Dea ex Machina is the music industry's hub for disability culture, amplifying the voices of disabled artists and fostering inclusion across the creative community.



Disability Rights Iowa strives for a changed world where people with disabilities are valued, included, and able to make their own decisions.



The Epilepsy Foundation improves the lives of people affected by epilepsy through education, advocacy, research, and connection, ensuring no one faces epilepsy alone.



infoNET provides tools and resources to help advocates with disabilities take action and stay up to date on key issues.

EXHIBITORS



IowaCASA represents 22 victim service programs across Iowa, connecting local advocates with state and federal partners. Its mission is to end sexual violence and strengthen support for survivors.



The Iowa Department for the Blind empowers Iowans who are blind to live independently and achieve meaningful employment, with a vision to be the world's leader in blind rehabilitation services.



The Iowa Department of Transportation supports accessible public transit statewide, helping Iowans travel safely to work, health care, education, and community life.



The Iowa Secretary of State's Office oversees elections and business services, supporting safe, secure, and accessible voting for all. Register to vote at VoterReadyIowa.gov.



The Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council strengthens the voices of Iowans with disabilities by growing a statewide network of independent living centers and advancing independence, productivity, and full inclusion through strong partnerships.



Finding solutions. Generating success.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation is an employment program for individuals with disabilities, focused on helping them prepare for, obtain, retain, and advance in employment. For those eligible, services are delivered based on a unique employment plan.



Life Interpretation's mission is to provide high-quality sign language interpretation, transliteration, and translation services; to assist both English and non-English users in connecting personally and professionally. Bridging Languages. Bridging Cultures. Bridging Lives.



Straw Hat Farms is owned and operated by Marissa Schletzbaum, with support from her family. The farm offers annual bedding plants, hanging baskets, perennials, and more each spring, along with fresh produce throughout the summer.



Talk To Me Technologies has been sharing the benefits of AAC through technology that has improved communication since 2006.



UI REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes), within the UI College of Education, is a transition program for college-age students with disabilities.



The West Des Moines Public Library collaborates with other libraries to offer services with the mission to enrich lives by igniting curiosity, engaging community, and expanding perspectives.

NOTES

[illegible]

PRIZE DRAWING

To qualify for the prize drawing, collect a stamp or signature from each exhibitor in the square with their business name on this sheet. Don't forget to print your name at the bottom. Once you've completed the sheet, return it to the registration table before lunch on Friday. Winners will be announced during Friday's lunch, and you must be present to win.

Your Name: _____



Make Your Mark! Conference
September 18-19, 2025

GAME ON!

IT'S TIME TO ADVOCATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

IOWA DDCouncil

Preparation, Participation, Power

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