

A PLAN 2027-2031 **FOR PROGRESS**

IOWA DDCouncil

Preparation, Participation, Power

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Preparation, Participation, Power

THE IOWA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL BELIEVES ALL IOWANS WITH DISABILITIES, AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY CHOOSE TO LIVE.

TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION, WE WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY, AND SYSTEMS CHANGE THAT SUPPORT HEALTHY, THRIVING LIVES IN THE COMMUNITY.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WE WILL FOCUS ON TWO GOALS:

1. LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY
2. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SYSTEM CHANGE



IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

OUR MISSION

TO CREATE CHANGE WITH AND FOR IOWANS
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SO THEY
CAN LIVE, WORK, LEARN, AND PLAY IN THE
COMMUNITY OF THEIR CHOOSING

10,200+

IOWANS MAKE UP THE IOWA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL NETWORK



GOAL 1

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

BY 2031, THE COUNCIL WILL INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Each year, we will support more Iowans with developmental disabilities as well as a variety of other disabilities, and their family members, to strengthen leadership and self-advocacy skills.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Support organizations and grassroots advocacy groups led by people with disabilities and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to lead, mentor, and strengthen their communities.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities who are subject matter experts to be compensated for their collaboration and leadership on key projects that advance systems change.



OBJECTIVE 1.1

Each year, we will support more lowans with developmental disabilities as well as a variety of other disabilities, and their family members, to strengthen leadership and self-advocacy skills.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Host the Make Your Mark! Self-Advocacy Conference and support other advocacy conferences
- Host virtual and in-person advocacy days and listening sessions
- Council and coalition training – how to be an engaged member (required)
- Partner with the DD network to host voter trainings
- Develop and host Advocacy training
- Train council members in developing storytelling and outreach skills
- Develop storytelling toolkits
- Provide opportunities for members to mentor other advocates
- Host a storytelling workshop session at the Make Your Mark! Self-Advocacy Conference



“The Make Your Mark! Conference gave me the opportunity to connect with other advocates and learn from experts. The sessions were informative, practical, and gave me ideas and tools I can use to better support people with developmental disabilities in my community.”



OBJECTIVE 1.2

Support organizations and grassroots advocacy groups led by people with disabilities and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to lead, mentor, and strengthen their communities.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Provide continued support for Allies in Advocacy and other grassroots organizations
- Grow groups like Allies in Advocacy and assist in making them sustainable
- Provide opportunities for and support trainings, along with other grassroots advocacy efforts
- Develop a toolkit for grassroots self-advocate groups
- Create mentoring opportunities
- Facilitate trainings led by people with disabilities (required)



OBJECTIVE 1.3

Provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities who are subject matter experts to be compensated for their collaboration and leadership on key projects that advance systems change.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Provide payment for Make Your Mark! Self-Advocacy Conference speakers with lived experience
- Offer stipends or contracts for individuals with disabilities who provide training, technical assistance, or consultation on systems change initiatives and mentoring projects
- Include individuals with disabilities as co-presenters at conferences, legislative events, and public events, with compensation for preparation and delivery, and encourage other organizations to do the same



GOAL 2

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SYSTEM CHANGE

BY 2031, SELF AND FAMILY ADVOCATES WILL ADVOCATE TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND DISABILITY COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LIVE HEALTHY, THRIVING LIVES.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Through the DD Council's resources, advocacy training, and events, people with developmental disabilities, their families, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders can strengthen their engagement with policymakers on issues and legislation that matter to them.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

The council will actively engage and listen to people with developmental disabilities and their families, to ensure the council can inform and educate policymakers each year on at least three key policy issues or proposals that align with the council's mission and the DD Act.

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Support youth with developmental disabilities as they transition to adulthood, along with their families, providing the tools and supports they need to succeed and thrive.

GOAL 2

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SYSTEM CHANGE

CONTINUED

BY 2031, SELF AND FAMILY ADVOCATES WILL ADVOCATE TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND DISABILITY COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LIVE HEALTHY, THRIVING LIVES.

OBJECTIVE 2.4

The DD Council will collaborate annually and as needed with partners across the DD network, state agencies to respond to natural and manmade disasters and public health issues that affect people with developmental disabilities and their families.

OBJECTIVE 2.5

Through training, policy change, technical assistance, and resources, the DD Council will support and collaborate with the DD network, state agencies, community programs, and other organizations to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

OBJECTIVE 2.6

By 2031, people with developmental disabilities and their families will expand their knowledge, tools, and confidence to advocate for quality, accessible health care and engage in healthy behaviors through training, peer support, and learning opportunities.

GOAL 2

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SYSTEM CHANGE

CONTINUED

BY 2031, SELF AND FAMILY ADVOCATES WILL ADVOCATE TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND DISABILITY COMMUNITY SERVICES TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LIVE HEALTHY, THRIVING LIVES.

OBJECTIVE 2.7

The DD Council will work each year with the DD network partners and state agencies to protect disability rights, promote supported decision-making, and strengthen policies and practices that support adults with disabilities and their families, including as people age.



OBJECTIVE 2.1

Through the DD Council's resources, advocacy training, and events, people with developmental disabilities, their families, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders can strengthen their engagement with policymakers on issues and legislation that matter to them.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Develop weekly communication during the legislative session
- Produce quarterly newsletters (or variations)
- Host virtual webinars on federal and state policy
- Publish an Iowa Legislative Directory
- Develop policy briefs
- Produce a guide to legislators
- Host a site that allows people to send messages to lawmakers
- Invest in and support the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute
- Provide training on the state public comment process encouraging action



"I'm constantly learning about issues that are important to our community and appreciate council resources to strengthen that knowledge."

"The DD Council helps me stay informed and shares information in an understandable way, which helps me focus my advocacy and feel confident enough to engage."

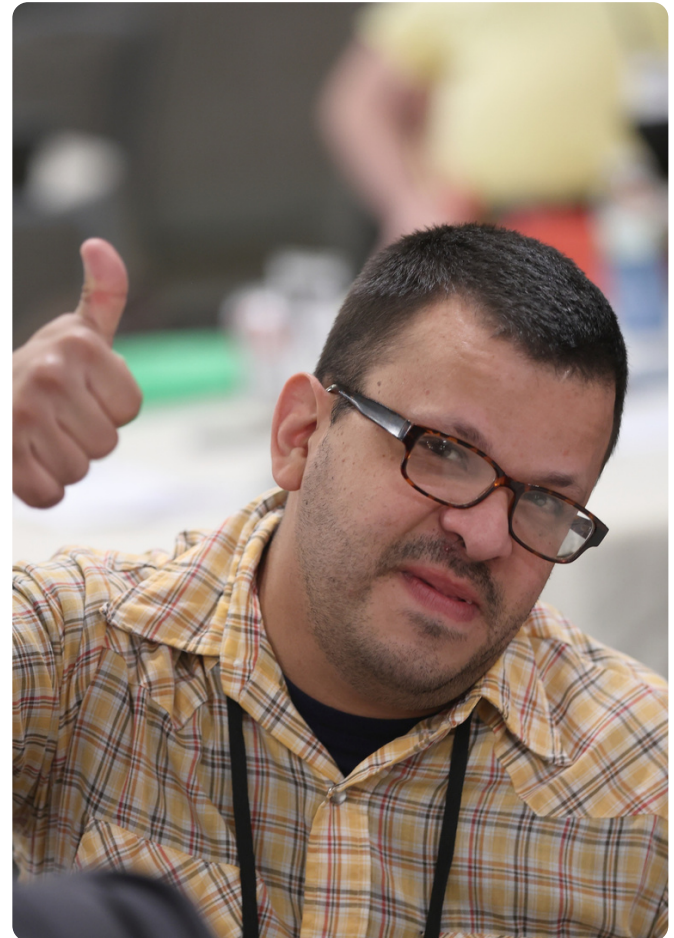


OBJECTIVE 2.2

The council will actively engage and listen to people with developmental disabilities and their families, to ensure the council can inform and educate policymakers each year on at least three key policy issues or proposals that align with the council's mission and the DD Act.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Develop public policy priorities
- Host Capitol Advocacy Days
- Host a Legislative reception
- Offer listening sessions/focus groups
- Provide opportunities for Townhalls



OBJECTIVE 2.3

Support youth with developmental disabilities as they transition to adulthood, along with their families, providing the tools and supports they need to succeed and thrive.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Collaborate with DD network partners to host the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)
- Host leadership activities and opportunities for alumni of YLA
- Host learning opportunities, webinars, and local events to share resources
- Develop fact sheets on transitioning



"Youth Leadership Academy helped my son connect better with his peers and community."

"Youth Leadership Academy gave my daughter an opportunity to have her voice heard, learn from others experiences, and learn how to better advocate for herself."



OBJECTIVE 2.4

The DD Council will collaborate annually and as needed with partners across the DD network, state agencies to respond to natural and manmade disasters and public health issues that affect people with developmental disabilities and their families.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Develop emergency preparation tools and resources
- Host public awareness campaigns
- Offer Mini Disaster Relief grants
- Develop fact sheets and other resources as necessary to provide education



OBJECTIVE 2.5

Through training, policy change, technical assistance, and resources, the DD Council will support and collaborate with the DD network, state agencies, community programs, and other organizations to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Provide employment sessions during the Make Your Mark! Self-Advocacy Conference
- Sponsor and support employment conferences and mini-projects
- Share success stories and videos and host awareness campaigns during the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)
- Host legislative forums and community discussions around barriers to employment



“Being involved with the Iowa DD Council has helped me advocate not just for myself, but for others across Iowa who want the chance to work and still have the supports they need. ”



OBJECTIVE 2.6

By 2031, people with developmental disabilities and their families will expand their knowledge, tools, and confidence to advocate for quality, accessible health care and engage in healthy behaviors through training, peer support, and learning opportunities.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Partner with the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) to provide health advocacy peer training
- Support other health advocacy efforts
- Provide fact sheets and other educational materials on staying healthy



OBJECTIVE 2.7

The DD Council will work each year with DD network partners and state agencies to protect disability rights, promote supported decision-making, and strengthen policies and practices that support adults with disabilities and their families, including as people age.

OUR ACTION PLAN:

- Partner with the DD network, aging network, and HHS on developing supported decision-making tools and resources
- Partner with Iowa's Able Saving Plan Program (IABLE) to help increase independence
- Collaborate with partners to research the housing crisis and develop strategies to address





If you have questions about the plan,
contact us at:

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This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$774,176 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government. Publication date 06/2026.