

<b>GOAL: Leadership and Advocacy</b>	<b>Goal: Empowering Communities Through System Change</b>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p><b>By 2031, self and family advocates will strengthen policies, practices, and disability community services to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the support they need to live healthy, thriving lives</b></p>
<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> Each year, we support more lowans with developmental disabilities as well as a variety of other disability, and their family members, to strengthen leadership and self-advocacy skills.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Make Your Mark Conference and support over advocacy conferences</li> <li>• Virtual and in person advocacy days and listening sessions</li> <li>• Council and coalition training- how to be an engaged member- <b>required</b></li> <li>• Partner with DD network to host voter trainings</li> <li>• Advocacy training.</li> <li>• Training Council Members in developing storytelling and outreach skills</li> <li>• Developing storytelling toolkits</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for members to mentor other advocates.</li> <li>• Host a Storytelling workshop session at the Make your Mark Conference.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop weekly communication during session</li> <li>• Produce quarterly newsletters or some variation of this</li> <li>• Host Capital chats</li> <li>• Develop policy briefs</li> <li>• Produce a guide to legislators</li> <li>• Host a site that allows people to send messages to lawmakers</li> <li>• Invest and Support family leadership training institute</li> <li>• Training on the state Public Comment process encouraging action.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Policy priorities</li> <li>• Capitol Advocacy days</li> <li>• Legislative reception</li> <li>• Listening sessions/focus groups.</li> <li>• Townhalls</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 1.2:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support for Allies in Advocacy and other grassroots organizations</li> <li>• Grow allies in advocacy, assist with making them sustainable</li> <li>• Support other grassroots advocacy efforts</li> <li>• Develop a toolkit for grassroots self-advocate groups</li> <li>• Mentoring opportunities</li> <li>• Trainings led by people with disabilities <b>required</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective 2.3:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host with partners the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)</li> <li>• Host leadership activities and opportunities for alumni of YLA</li> <li>• Host learning opportunities, webinars and local events to share resources</li> <li>• Develop factsheets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 1.3:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide payment for Make your Mark! speakers with lived experience</li> <li>• Offer stipends or contracts for individuals with disabilities who provide training, technical assistance, or consultation on systems-change initiatives and mentoring projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective 2.4:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop emergency preparation tools and resources</li> <li>• Host public awareness campaigns</li> <li>• Offer Mini Disaster Relief grants</li> <li>• Develop factsheets and other resources as necessary to provide education</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include individuals with disabilities as co-presenters at conferences, legislative events and public events, with compensation for preparation and delivery.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Objective 2.5:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition partner and support ISPE programs, provide a track at MYM!</li> <li>• Sponsor and support Employment conferences and mini projects (APSE Autism Society VR etc.)</li> <li>• NDEAM campaigns- share success stories. Videos</li> <li>• Legislative forums, community discussions around barriers to employment</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Objective 2.6:</b> 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-health was a need identified as a top priority.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with the UCED to provide Health advocacy peer training.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Objective 2.7:</b> The DD Council will work each year with DD Network partners and state agencies to protect disability rights, promote supported</p>

	<p>decision-making, and strengthen policies and practices that support adults with disabilities and their families, including as people age.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner with DD network and aging network, HHS on developing supported decision tools and resources</li><li>• Partner with the IABLE program to help increase independence</li><li>• Collaborate with partners to research the housing crisis and develop strategies to address</li></ul>
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