

December 21, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Associate of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
1825 K Street NW Suite 1250  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Morris.

Please accept our application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This application is a joint effort between the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Division of Aging and Disability within Iowa Health and Human Services. The Division Director and the Executive Director of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council will serve as co-leaders.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our application. Please reach out to me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brooke Lovelace  
Executive Director  
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

## Application from the State of Iowa to join the Community of Practice for Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

### 1.Existing State Resources

The State of Iowa offers extensive services through public agencies, private advocacy organizations and a network of service providers to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, older adults and their families and primary caregivers. The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (IHHS) recently expanded to encompass the Medicaid agency, State Unit on Aging, Department of Public Health, Department of Human Rights and Mental Health & Disability Regions. The mission of Iowa HHS is “to provide high quality programs that protect and improve the health and resilience of individuals, families and communities.”

The State Unit on Aging (SUA) is now housed in the Aging and Disability Services Division of Iowa HHS. It is responsible for implementation of Older Americans Act programs delivered by Iowa’s six local Area Agencies on Aging. This Aging Network is responsible for delivering comprehensive, integrated services for older adults to live with dignity and independence. Specific programs include congregate and home-delivered nutrition, in-home services, information & referral services, transportation and an array of services for Iowa’s family caregivers. Iowa is committed to further enhancing and expanding its Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) network of partners to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities, older adults, and their family caregivers.

Iowa HHS also houses the Medicaid Bureau who provides health care coverage to approximately 700,000 Iowans each year. Iowa Medicaid is charged with implementing the Medicaid state plan serving low-income adults, children, pregnant women, older adults and individuals with disabilities. Several large Medicaid programs providing person-centered services include:

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS): Targeted Case Management, Money Follows the Person (MFP), Nursing and Skilled Nursing Facilities, Habilitation Services and Home Health Services  
Home and Community Based Services (HCBS): Consumer Choice Option, Consumer Directed Attendant Care and HCBS Waivers. Currently Iowa has seven HCBS Waivers. They are:

Health & Disability  
AIDS/HIV  
Elderly  
Intellectual Disability  
Brain Injury  
Physical Disability  
Children's Mental Health

Fee-for-Service Programs: American Indian or Alaskan Native Program, Medicare Savings Program (MSP), Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Medically Needy and others.

Other HHS related Programs: Mental and Behavioral Health, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), Women Infants & Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Rent Reimbursement and others.

Money Follows the Person: Transitions individuals with Intellectual Disabilities of all ages out of facility-based services and into the community.

Most services are provided by private agencies, Medicaid providers, three Managed Care Organizations, six Area Agencies on Aging, and many others. Iowa also has an active network of advocacy and educational agencies including: AARP, Disability Rights Iowa, Iowa's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging and many others.

Iowa HHS, with the support of Governor Kim Reynolds, currently has a transformational initiative taking place to evaluate, gather input from stakeholders, and propose sweeping changes to Community Based Services (CBS). The Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) project is working to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality behavioral health, disability and aging services in their community. The project has three work streams:

Waitlist Management: better identify needs and reprioritize the wait for CBS.

\*According to the *2023 Monthly Slot and Waiting List Summary* (12/7/2023) compiled by Iowa Medicaid, there are 21,131 total individuals on wait lists, with a lower unduplicated count.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/policies-rules-and-regulations/home-and-community-based-services-hcbs-waivers-program>

Waiver Redesign: reimagine Medicaid waivers so people remain in community.

Case Management: improving how Iowans learn about and access CBS.

The outcomes of this system's change work will be critical to both the aging and I/DD communities for many years to come. Advocates have been and will continue to be involved in providing critical input on this project. More information on this comprehensive undertaking can be found here: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/current-projects/home>

The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council has been advocating for and with people with disabilities across their lifespan. The Council has historically worked closely with what was the Department of



Aging, Iowa Department of Public Health Department and the UCEDD to coordinate efforts and discuss possible projects that affect both populations. Health advocacy training for both populations is one of these efforts.

Recently Governor Kim Reynolds put forth a plan called *Aligning Government to Better Serve Iowans* to streamline processes, improve efficiencies by reducing the number of agencies from 37 to 16 and improve coordination between state agencies. One significant change was to create the Aging & Disability Services Division. This brought together teams from the former Department on Aging, Adult Protective Services and Targeted Case Management. The Division will also lead and administer the Olmstead Plan, Aging & Disability Resource Center enhancement and expansion and collaborate across divisions on a multitude of projects. The division has representation on the state collaborative councils, such as the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council, the Iowa Council on Homelessness, the DD Council, the Statewide Independent Living Council and several employment related groups. The Director of the DD Council has collaborated with the division on the Master Plan on Aging, National Center for Advancing Person-Centered Practices (NACAPPS) technical assistance project and others. This recent alignment and joint participation in projects has served as a starting point for bridging gaps between the disability and aging networks.

The 2020 Census indicates Iowa's total population is just under 3.2 million persons, a 4.7% increase from 2010. The make-up of Iowa's population is 84.5% white, 6.6% Hispanic/Latino, 3.6% Black/African American and very small percentages of American Indian & Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander and "some other race."

Iowa's Diversity Index is 30.8%. Eleven percent of Iowans live in poverty. Sixty-three of Iowa's 99 counties are urban, 36.8 percent are rural. About 13% of Iowans have a disability.

While the vast majority speak English, around 8.6 percent of residents above the age of five, speak a language other than English at home. Additionally, about 3 percent of the population is considered limited English proficiency. There are 19 known languages spoken in Iowa.

The top five other languages spoken at home by Individuals 5-years and older:

Spanish: 122,459 or 4%

Chinese: 11,330 or .38%

German or other Germanic: 10,009 or .34%

Arabic: 9,952 or .34%

Vietnamese: or .31%

48,782 of Spanish speakers "speak English less than very well".

2021 American Community Survey. <https://www.iowadatatcenter.org/index.php/quick-facts/iowa-quick-facts>

2019 American Community Survey. <https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/DHR/languages.html#>

Iowa Department of Human Rights Dashboard.

<https://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/DHR/languages.html#>

Although unaware of any current Community of Practice (CoP) initiatives in the state, both the DD Council and Aging & Disabilities Services Division have history in participating in these activities and bringing together state teams. Most recently, the then Department of Aging, was the lead for a national learning collaborative with the topic of family caregiving, *Helping States Support Families Caring for an Aging America*. This initiative was funded by John A. Hartford Foundation and led by the Center for Health Care Strategies. Current state initiatives, such as the HOME Project, look to provide data driven, consumer focused changes to the long-term services and support systems in Iowa. These potential changes and information sharing can be used to leverage common goals and outcomes, reduce any duplication and provide a clear vision when developing the work plan. The Iowa DD Council also has experience participating in Employment Community of Practice projects through the Iowa Coalition of Integrated Employment that brought together many DD network partners, state agencies, schools and self and family advocates to increase employment opportunities.

## **2. Membership and diversity of the Iowa State Alliance Team (SAT)**

The SAT will be co-led by the Director of the Division of Aging and Disability Services and the Executive Director of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. During the application process, all potential SAT members have been informed of the process and will receive the final application. The following will be the key members of the SAT. Other agencies and partners (listed later) will be invited to join if the grant is approved.

SAT committed members:

- The University of Iowa Center for Excellence for Developmental Disabilities
- Disability Rights Iowa
- The Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa
- The State Independent Living Council
- The Iowa Medicaid Department
- The National Federation for the Blind of Iowa
- Human Rights Department within Health and Human Services
- Iowa Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention
- Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Letters of commitment to participate are attached to the application.

Self and family advocates from the DD Council, Disability Rights Iowa and the Area Agencies on Agency will be invited to be SAT members and take part in COP activities. In addition, members of a grassroots self-advocacy group, Allies in Advocacy. As mentioned previously, IHHS now encompasses many former state agencies. The SAT will include staff members within the IHHS because they represent subject matter expertise, such as Medicaid and Human Rights. Human Rights includes representation from the Latino, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, African American and Native American Communities. The lead directors will continue to reach out to other diverse populations to recruit additional members.



All meeting materials will be developed using plain language as much as possible. Interpreters will also be provided as requested along with any other needed accommodations.

The following agencies will also be invited if awarded the grant:

The ARC  
Reach Iowa Together  
Autism Society  
Alzheimer's Association  
AARP  
EasterSeals of Iowa

### **3. Iowa will be intentional about diversity and lived experiences to ensure cultural Competency**

Hearing from the voices of those with lived experience and from diverse populations will be the cornerstone of our work plan development. In addition, the DD Council has a network of over 9,000 self and family advocates and other stakeholders from across Iowa. This network will have the opportunity to have input in the work plan development. The SAT will also be intentional with reaching out to underserved populations in rural Iowa.

### **4. How the Iowa SAT will jointly choose topics to work on, how the team will work together, and how the team will come together to create a work plan**

The SAT will meet at least monthly and more often as needed. A kick off meeting will be held in person but a majority will be held virtually. Before the kickoff meeting, SAT members will be surveyed to identify the priorities they want addressed in the work plan. Key decisions will be made through group consensus of SAT members. SAT members will be required to share a draft work plan with their own stakeholders for input to help ensure equity, inclusion and diversity are considered as part of the work plan. Additional input and feedback from the draft plan will come from the DD Council network of advocates. With the input obtained, the final work plan will be voted on by consensus by the SAT.

### **5. Key Staff**

Co-leader: Zachary Rhein  
Director of the Division of Aging and Disability Services  
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services  
515-250-5208  
[zachary.rhein2@iowa.gov](mailto:zachary.rhein2@iowa.gov)

Co-leader: Brooke Lovelace

Executive Director  
Iowa Developmental Disabilities  
515-864-6108  
[blovela@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:blovela@dhs.state.ia.us)

Project Coordinator: Julie Bergeson  
Division of Aging and Disability Services  
Iowa Department of Health and Human Service  
515-205-6224  
[julie.bergeson@iowa.gov](mailto:julie.bergeson@iowa.gov)

## **6. Project Budget:**

The \$5,000 grant from the NACDD will primarily be spent to cover costs of one of the co-leaders and project Coordinator to attend the annual conference. Any remaining will be spent to cover costs for interpreters and other accommodations. The SAT may ask for additional funding from NACDD to cover additional reasonable accommodations.

## **7. Commitment to following through with the requirements for the Community of Practice and SAT until the end of the federal grant?**

**Yes**

November 27, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris

The Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD), which is designated as Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant. CDD has a long history of working collaboratively with both the Iowa DD Council and the Department of Health and Human Services, and can confidently say that both entities are more than poised to meet the deliverables of this opportunity.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for the Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services departments within the state Department of Health and Human Services recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. CDD would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meetings, assist with creating a workplan, and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three-year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,



Derrick Willis, MPA  
UCEDD Director





# Disability Rights Iowa

LEGAL PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris

Disability Rights Iowa is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. Disability Rights Iowa would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meeting, assist with creating a workplan and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three-year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Disability Rights Iowa



Advocating for justice. Advancing human and legal rights. Protecting Iowans with disabilities.





IOWA

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1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 370, Des Moines, IA 50314

Dear Mr. Morris,

The Epilepsy Foundation is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. Our foundation would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meetings, assist with creating a work plan and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three-year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,

*Lauren Doucet*

Lauren Doucet  
Operations Manager

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris,

Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (Iowa SILC) is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is an excellent opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities Services Department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. The Iowa SILC would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meetings, assist with creating a work plan, and implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support over the three years.

Thank you for your consideration of Iowa's application.

Sincerely,



12/8/2023

Amy Robasse  
Executive Director  
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)  
PO Box 14  
Amana, IA 52203  
Office: (515) 282-0275



STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Health**<sup>AND</sup> **Human**  
SERVICES

December 12, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris

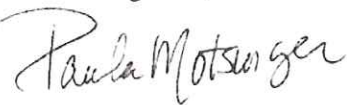
Iowa Medicaid is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice.

Our Bureau of Long-Term Services and Supports Policy would participate as core team members in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meetings and assist with the development and implementation of a detailed workplan.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,



Paula Motsinger  
Bureau Chief, Bureau of Long-Term Services and Supports  
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Medicaid Division  
[pmotsin@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:pmotsin@dhs.state.ia.us)

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Health** AND **Human**  
SERVICES

Kim Reynolds  
GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg  
LT. GOVERNOR

Kelly Garcia  
DIRECTOR

December 14, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris:

Human Rights, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The purpose of this grant is to enhance the partnership between aging and disability networks and to provide better support to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future. This is an excellent opportunity for Iowa as the Aging, Disabilities Services, and Human Rights Departments have recently merged with the Iowa Health and Human Services to form a single agency to provide a more comprehensive and better-aligned set of programs, services, and support. This is especially important when working with and serving underserved communities.

We are excited to be a part of the National Community of Practice, and the opportunity for Human Rights to serve as a member of the Iowa State Alliance Team, helping connect them with and improve service to underserved communities to ensure their voices are present as programs and policies are developed and executed. Human Rights will provide personnel to attend regular meetings and assist in developing and implementing the work plan with appropriate in-kind support over the life of the grant.

Thank you for considering Iowa's application.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Baxter  
Advocacy Chief

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

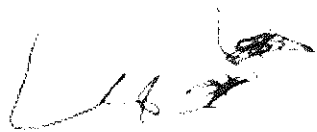
Dear Mr. Morris

The National Federation of the Blind of Iowa is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. The National Federation of the Blind of Iowa would participate as a core team members in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meeting, assist with creating a workplan and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Van Gorp", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Van Gorp, President  
National Federation of the Blind of Iowa





*Revitalizing Our Resiliencies* - 3 John 1:2

December 12, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris,

The Iowa Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention, Incorporated and Affiliated Churches is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant.

The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division. We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. Our Iowa Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention, Incorporated and Affiliated Churches would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meeting, assist with creating a workplan and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Whitfield, President  
Iowa Missionary & Educational Baptist State Convention  
and Affiliated Churches of Illinois and Nebraska

**Convention Headquarters**

814 School Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515.243.4073

Email: [secretary.imebsc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.imebsc@gmail.com)



*Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging*

December 20, 2023

Andrew Morris  
Project Coordinator  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A) is pleased to support the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services application for the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant. The goal of this grant is to strengthen the collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and their families as they plan for their future across the lifespan. This is a great opportunity for Iowa as the Aging and Disabilities services department recently merged into one division.

We look forward to being a part of the National Community of Practice. I4A would participate as a core team member in the Iowa State Alliance Team by providing staff to attend regular meetings, assist with creating a work plan and to implement the plan with appropriate in-kind support of the three-year period.

Thank you for your consideration for Iowa's application.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Hildreth, MBL  
Executive Director

