

# Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council's 2024 work plan

Blue Highlighted: We need help from Council and/or much more needed here

Yellow Highlighted: We have been working on

## Goal #1 (Advocacy):

**Develop strong advocates and leaders who create the positive change they want.**

**Objective 1.1 Annually increase the number of lowans with developmental disabilities and family members who engage in the civic and political decision-making process.**

| Key Activities   | Expected Outputs  | Expected Outcomes   | Progress  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Host local Capitol days and town hall meetings.</li><li>2. Provide training and education on caucuses for people with disabilities. Work with both parties to ensure accessibility of locations.</li><li>3. Provide training for primary and 2024 General Election to both community and facility sites.</li><li>4. Work with Secretary of State's Office to provide training to poll workers to assure polling places are accessible and welcoming.</li><li>5. Provide advocacy trainings and advertise our ability to offer this assistance.</li><li>6. Host and support Make Your Mark! and other self and family advocacy conferences.</li><li>7. Educate and inform advocates, stakeholders, and legislators, through infoNET, social media posts, and emails.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Five advocacy groups visit the State Capitol during session. Three advocacy groups hold town hall meetings during off session.</li><li>2. 50 lowans attend virtual training. Caucus material updated.</li><li>3. 200 lowans attend voter trainings. Voter materials are updated at least annual to ensure they remain current.</li><li>4. 20 poll workers are trained. Training and Advocacy tools update</li><li>5. 100 lowans with disabilities participate in the annual Make your Mark conference and other self and family advocacy conferences support by the DD Council</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. People with disabilities and family members learn about the legislative process and engage with lawmakers.</li><li>2. People with disabilities attend the Iowa Caucuses</li><li>3. People with disabilities using DD Council resources are registered and voting.</li><li>4. People with disabilities and a family members use the DD Council resources to stay informed and to increase their effectiveness as advocates.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We have five capitol advocacy days approved and scheduled.</li><li>2. Caucus guide updated. Social media and email posts about the caucuses. December capitol chat discussed.</li><li>3. We will update all voting material this spring and offer training. One training scheduled in May.</li><li>4. Reaching out to see how we can help to train poll workers.</li><li>5. Provided this to the Olmstead task force. Also, for the family navigator in service.</li><li>6. Planning will begin January.</li><li>7. Fall newsletter and two capitol chats.</li><li>8. We now on Linkin and have new business cards for people to join. New website, "join now"</li></ol> |

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| 8. Increase the number of advocates connected to the DD Council Network. Develop marketing tools to engage people to join.   | 6. Fifteen electronic issues of infoNet are produced, four print publications are produced. 4000 stakeholders receive information.<br>7. Information is shared weekly through social media/and or emails.<br>8. 50 new advocates connect with our network  |  |  |
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| <b>Objective 1.2: Annually increase the number of Iowans with developmental disabilities—including young adults and their family members—who lead and mentor others and take on leadership roles in projects, coalitions, councils and boards that increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in community living.</b>   |  |  |  |
| Key Activities   | Expected Outputs   | Expected Outcomes  | Progress   |
| 1. Support peer-mentoring programs such as Community Ambassadors.<br>2. Create an intern position for a person with a disability to assist with advocacy.<br>3. Continue partnerships with our DD network to provide the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA).<br>4. Support graduates of the youth leadership academy to engage in other councils, boards, community action groups at the local or state board.<br>5. Support the mentoring program in the Iowa Talent Bank (Iowa's State and Local board and commission application site) by | 1. At least five people participate in a peer mentoring event or activity.<br>2. An intern is hired.<br>3. 10 youth attend the Youth Leadership Academy<br>4. 100% of graduates of YLA are engaged in other leadership types of activities.<br>5. 2 outreach events are held to create awareness of opportunities available on boards and commissions.<br>6. At least one training is held for people with disabilities to be more effective Council/commissions boards.<br>7. Two or three conversations/meetings are | 1. Iowans with disabilities are trained by their peers to advocate, to live more inclusive lives and to be civically engaged.<br>2. Youth with disabilities are active as leaders in their communities and state boards and commissions.<br>3. Boards and commissions are more inclusive for people with disabilities.<br>4. People with disabilities are active members on boards and commission. | 1. Funding this for a small amount for the speaker's bureau<br>2. Still on hold.<br>3. Planning meeting in February<br>4. Alumni event held in December<br>5. discussions with human rights within HHS<br>6. Same as above<br>7. Talk with Council members<br>8. |

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| <p>hosting outreach and awareness campaigns about opportunities available on commissions and boards at the local and state level.</p> <p>6. Work with the Talent Bank and the Governor's office to continue tracking those with disabilities that serve on boards and commissions.</p> <p>7. Work with DD network to train and mentor people with disabilities on how to be effective members of boards, councils, and commissions.</p> <p>8. Work with boards, councils, and commissions to share ways they can be more inclusive of people with disabilities and the importance of inclusion.</p> | <p>held with leaders/chairs of boards and commissions on how to be more inclusive.</p> |                          |                 |
| <p><b>Objective 1.3 With the support of our disability network of advocates, annually support to strengthen self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with developmental disabilities so that there are more leaders with developmental disabilities and a more unified self-advocacy movement.</b></p>  |  |                          |                 |
| <b>Key Activities</b>   | <b>Expected Outputs</b>  | <b>Expected Outcomes</b> | <b>Progress</b> |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support self-advocates to train others to register to vote and vote.</li> <li>2. Support self and family advocates and council members by hosting town hall meetings and other public events with local and state leaders in their communities</li> <li>3. Continue to support initiatives by Allies in Advocacy.</li> <li>4. Support other grassroot initiatives led by self-advocates.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Five proposals for voter education and engagement that include people with disabilities in lead roles are supported by the Council.</li> <li>2. Two townhall meetings and/or other events, led by people with disabilities are supported by the Council.</li> <li>3. Two initiatives are supported by the council led by self-advocate leaders.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. lowans with disabilities and family members demonstrate leadership skills through participating and leading community projects, training and local events.</li> <li>2. lowans with disabilities are trained by their peers to vote and become advocates.</li> <li>3. People with disabilities are leading self-advocacy initiatives to create change.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will offer voting grants this spring and fall need to work on how to make these opportunities.</li> <li>2. Family townhall held in November in council bluff and UI Reach. Also partnered with UCED to do one.</li> <li>3. Ongoing Open house happening in January.</li> <li>4. Do council members know of others we should report.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Objective 1.4: In Collaboration with our DD network partners, annually the DD Council will provide advocacy and voter training to young adults (18-26) with developmental disabilities across all populations in two rural communities. The council will reduce the lack of civic engagement and increase self-advocacy in rural areas for youths with developmental disabilities. This is our targeted disparity goal.</b>                |  |  |   |
| <b>Key Activities</b>   | <b>Expected outputs</b>  | <b>Expected Outcomes</b>   | <b>Progress</b>   |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With the assistance of Council members, seek out opportunities in Council members' rural communities to host and/or sponsor advocacy and voter training and townhall meetings.</li> <li>2. Engage YLA graduates and Community ambassadors with hosting these events in their communities.</li> <li>3. Partner with our DD network partners including to promote events and host events.</li> <li>4. Continue to sustain relationships developed by adapting DD Council tools, training and resources so people can better advocate for their needs and stay engaged and informed.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two community events are held in rural areas.</li> <li>2. Tools and resources adapted.</li> <li>3. Two voter training and/or local capitol days are hosted</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The DD Council will establish relationships with underserved populations.</li> <li>2. Underserved populations advocate for their priorities.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provided this in November to AC/DG need to plan another for this spring.</li> <li>2. Did discuss with alumni YLA.</li> <li>3. With work UCED and DRI on outreach</li> <li>4. Work needs to continue with this.</li> </ol> |
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## Goal #2 (Systems Change):

**Improve policy and practice that positively supports services, supports and communities for people with developmental disabilities.**

**Objective 2.1 Annually, target at least three key policy proposals (e.g. legislation, executive orders, or regulations being announced) to identify opportunities to educate policymakers about the impact of specific policies and make recommendations to ensure policies align with the principles of the Developmental Disabilities Act and the legislative priorities of the DD Council.**

| Key Activities | Expected Outputs | Expected Outcomes | Progress |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research state and federal public policies and trends effecting people with disabilities and share information to keep people informed.</li> <li>2. Develop Policy briefs and/or white papers with key recommendations.</li> <li>3. Facilitate strong relationships with community organizations.</li> <li>4. Collaborate with DD network partners (Disability Rights Iowa and the Center for Disabilities and Development) to identify issues and needs.</li> <li>5. Foster relationships with policymakers to influence policy by meeting with key leaders prior to the 2024 session.</li> <li>6. Participate and provide public comment in commissions and council meetings (Mental Health Disability Services, Medical Assistance Advisory Council, the Autism Council, the Brain Injury Council, and the Olmstead Task Force) and before administrative rules and legislative committees.</li> <li>7. With Council members and DD network partners, develop an annual list of policy priorities that increase community living for people with disabilities.</li> <li>8. Educate policymakers and other state leaders about</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of policies shared through email social media and at events.</li> <li>2. Two policy briefs developed.</li> <li>3. Number of events and projects with other community organizations</li> <li>4. Monthly meetings with the DD network and number of issues identified.</li> <li>5. Five meetings held with legislators prior to session.</li> <li>6. DD Council open house held yearly with legislators.</li> <li>7. Council staff will provide public comment at five or more commissions and councils.</li> <li>8. Priorities developed.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As of a result of the DD Council education, each session sees positive policy changes for people with disabilities.</li> <li>2. Legislative leaders and state agencies obtain input from the DD Council about policy changes that effect people with disabilities</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparing for session. Developing fact sheets to go along with agenda.</li> <li>2. Coming soon</li> <li>3. Partnered with Systems Unlimited for their townhall. Collaborated with IACP on agenda. Agencies have been reaching out to us for assistance.</li> <li>4. Meet regularly and hosted a townhall with the UCED. SOS asked both us and DRI to attend election day at their office to hear any complaints.</li> <li>5. Carlyn has been meeting with key legislators about our agenda</li> <li>6. Shared our policy agenda at the commission, provided guidance to the Olmstead taskforce on their advocacy day</li> <li>7. Public policy agenda developed and distributed</li> <li>8. Will work on both of these this session</li> <li>9.</li> </ol> |
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| gathering input from people with disabilities and sharing information in plain language.<br>9. Educate policymakers and other state leaders on how to gather input from people with disabilities.  |  |   |  |
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| <b>Objective 2.2: With the use of DD Council resources, people with developmental disabilities and/or their family members will annually educate policy makers about proposed new legislation and/or policy changes about an issue important to them.</b>  |  |   |  |
| Key Activities   | Expected Outputs   | Expected Outcomes   | Progress   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use infoNET to inform Iowans with disabilities and their families about policies that impact community living and inclusion.</li> <li>2. Share grassroots success stories of people advocating for themselves locally and at the state and federal levels.</li> <li>3. Support and collaborate with the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute to help families advocate for themselves and others.</li> <li>4. Host regular (at least monthly) policy calls with advocates and stakeholders during the legislative session for discussion and questions about proposed legislation.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fifteen electronic issues of infoNet are produced, four print publications are produced.</li> <li>2. 2,000 people with disabilities receive InfoNet.</li> <li>3. Thirty-five social media posts are made.</li> <li>4. Three success stories shared.</li> <li>5. 10 family members are trained through the Iowa Family Leadership Training</li> <li>6. Eight policy calls are held.</li> <li>7. 10 advocates attend each call.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a result of using the DD Council resources, people with disabilities and family members are instrumental in positive policy changes.</li> <li>2. Legislative leaders and state agencies obtain input from people with disabilities and family members about policy changes that effect people with disabilities</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fall issue came out and caucus guide.</li> <li>2. Shared Wendy's advocacy story through social media. Some will be in our annual magazine.</li> <li>3. Carlyn provided training to family navigators and shared their upcoming training.</li> <li>4. Hosted an October and a November</li> </ol> |

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## Goal #3 Capacity Building

**By 2026, communities will be strengthened so that people with developmental disabilities will have the supports they need to live and thrive in the community.**

**Objective 3.1: Through annual training, technical assistance, and resources, the DD Council will collaborate the DD network, state agencies, and community programs to improve competitive integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities.**

| Key Activities  | Expected Outputs   | Expected Outcomes   | Progress   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, the Iowa Coalition on Integrated Employment, and our DD network to provide training opportunities to community rehabilitation providers.</li> <li>Through infoNET, APSE partners and our DD Council network promote National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month with various activities with local and state officials and legislators including Take Your legislator to work day.</li> <li>Share employment success stories, with advocates, stakeholders, legislators and community businesses. Including stories about graduates from Comprehensive transition programs (i.e., REACH)</li> <li>Sponsor and collaborate with DD partners, (the Autism Society, Association of People Supporting Employment First,</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five community rehabilitation providers are trained.</li> <li>Four events promoting integrated employment are held during NDEAM month.</li> <li>10 people with disabilities take their legislators or work day.</li> <li>Four employment success stories are shared.</li> <li>Thirty people with disabilities attend an employment related conference.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iowans with disabilities and their families advocated for policies and practices that support integrated community employment.</li> <li>More people with disabilities are competitively employed.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are part of the blueprint for change grant with VR to increase employment opportunities.</li> <li>We had six people take their legislators to work day/twice as many as last year. Shared stories and videos. Shared through social media and press release and featured on the news.</li> <li>Magazine with have stories and shared one in the public policy agenda.</li> <li>Staff part of the employment first team through VR Supported Autism conference in October</li> </ol> |

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| Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, and others) to host employment-specific conferences for people with disabilities and their families.   |  |   |  |
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| <b>Objective 3.2: By September 30, 2026, the DD Council will partner with the DD network, state agencies, and/or other community programs to respond to emergent needs that impact individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.</b>   |  |   |  |
| Key Activities   | Expected Outputs   | Expected Outcomes   | Progress   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with community partners to host community conversations to determine emergent issues that could be addressed through new initiatives supported by the DD Council.</li> <li>2. Develop and communicate informational briefs on lessons learned.</li> <li>3. With DD network and other partners develop resource toolkit to provide health and health advocacy education for people with ID/DD and those supporting them</li> <li>4. Implement the use of the health advocacy toolkit.</li> <li>5. Continue to partner with the IABLE staff to provide education about the IABLE accounts to increase financial independency of people with DD</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Four community conversations are held.</li> <li>2. One informational brief developed.</li> <li>3. One health advocacy training is held.</li> <li>4. One IABLE training is held.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Innovated practices promoting community inclusion are developed.</li> <li>2. An increase in IABLE account holders.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to meet monthly on this.</li> <li>2. Nothing yet to report</li> <li>3. Facilitator guide being developed by UCED with council support</li> <li>4. Tool kit is in use</li> <li>5. IABLE webinar to be held in the spring. Shared story in magazine.</li> </ol> |