

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council's 2025 work plan

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

Yellow Highlighted: New activities since last time

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	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Host local Capitol days and town hall meetings. 2. Provide training for 2024 General Election to both community and facility sites. 3. Work with Secretary of State's Office to provide training to poll workers to assure polling places are accessible and welcoming. 4. Provide advocacy trainings and advertise our ability to offer this assistance. 5. Host and support Make Your Mark! and other self and family advocacy conferences. 6. Educate and inform advocates, stakeholders, and legislators, through infoNET, social media posts, and emails. 7. Increase the number of advocates connected to the DD Council Network. Develop marketing tools to engage people to join. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We did seven capitol days, five were granted funded. Carlyn assisted four other disability groups with their events. 2. Seven voter trainings were held across the state. Five candidate forums with DRI were held. One forum had Woodward residents attend. 3. Tip sheet for poll workers was developed and distributed to county auditors. DD council invited to observe calls received by the SOS on election day. Invited to share a booth with the SOS office at the State Fair. Plan for future activities with the SOS office were made 4. Family leadership training held in May SILC advocacy training 5. Committee meeting. Dates and location have been set. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five advocacy groups visit the State Capitol during session. Three advocacy groups hold town hall meetings during off session. 2. 200 lowans attend voter trainings. Voter materials are updated at least annual to ensure they remain current. 3. 20 poll workers educated. 4. Training and Advocacy tools update 120 lowans with disabilities and family members are active participants in advocacy trainings. 5. 100 lowans with disabilities participate in the annual Make Your Mark conference and other self and family advocacy conferences supported by the DD Council. 6. Fifteen electronic issues of infoNet are produced, four print publications are 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People with disabilities and family members learn about the legislative process and engage with lawmakers. 2. People with disabilities attend the Iowa Caucuses. 3. People with disabilities using DD Council resources are registered and voting. 4. People with disabilities and a family members use the DD Council resources to stay informed and to increase their effectiveness as advocates.

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	<p>Theme developed. All speakers set . Sponsorships and exhibitors.</p> <p>6. Summer issue out. Action alert on DOL caregiver rules</p> <p>7. Continue to monitor, network numbers remain about the same. Looking at ways to use new tracking network system to customize membership **** .Also working to clean up the data base which will end up decreasing our numbers</p>	<p>produced. 4000 stakeholders receive information.</p> <p>7. Information is shared weekly through social media/and or emails.</p> <p>8. 50 new advocates connect with our network.</p>	
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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.

Key Activities	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support peer-mentoring programs. 2. Create an intern position for a person with a disability to assist with advocacy. 3. Continue partnerships with our DD network to provide the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). 4. Support graduates of the youth leadership academy to engage in other councils, boards, community action groups at the local or state board. 5. Support the mentoring program in the Iowa Talent Bank (Iowa's State and Local board and commission application site) by hosting outreach and awareness campaigns about opportunities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided support to Life Connections and their request for more funding for peer programs 2. Not an intern, but we do contract with a person with lived experience to facilitate the Allies in Advocacy 3. YLA academy held with graduation ceremony. 12 Graduates this year . Follow up going on with students and parents 4. Did provide opportunities for alumni for capitol day. ASK is also offering more opportunities. More will happen this fall 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least five people participate in a peer mentoring event or activity. 2. An intern is hired. 3. 10 youth attend the Youth Leadership Academy 4. 100% of graduates of YLA are engaged in other leadership types of activities. 5. 2 outreach events are held to create awareness of opportunities available on boards and commissions. 6. At least one training is held for people with disabilities to be more effective Council/commissions boards. 7. Two or three Conversations/meetings are 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iowans with disabilities are trained by their peers to advocate, be civically engaged and explore employment opportunities. 2. Youth with disabilities are active as leaders in their communities and state boards and commissions. 3. Boards and commissions are more inclusive for people with disabilities. 4. People with disabilities are active members on boards and commission.

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<p>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>5. Talent bank is going away. Council members met with new web based designer to talk about changes needed.</p> <p>6. See above.</p> <p>7. We need to figure out another way to reach these activities.</p> <p>8. Need help with this as well. still to need to develop a training for advocates. Council has five new advocates appointed.</p>	<p>held with leaders/chairs of boards and commissions on how to be more inclusive.</p>	
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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.

Key Activities	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<p>1. Support self-advocates to train others to register to vote and vote.</p> <p>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</p> <p>3. Continue to support initiatives by Allies in Advocacy.</p> <p>4. Support other grassroot initiatives led by self-advocates.</p>	<p>1. Three events held by self-advocates (Mason City, Ed's in Coralville and Decorah).</p> <p>2. Will begin marketing this month</p> <p>3. Allies working on Medicaid calls to action and planning an ADA celebration.</p> <p>4. Continue to support Mason City group (Special Patriots, continue to work with Robert's advocacy). Helped the ARC of Cedar Rapids with their event.</p>	<p>5. Five proposals for voter education and engagement that include people with disabilities in lead roles are supported by the Council.</p> <p>6. Two townhall meetings and/or other events, led by people with disabilities are supported by the Council.</p> <p>7. Two initiatives are supported by the council led by self-advocate leaders.</p>	<p>1. Iowans with disabilities and family members demonstrate leadership skills through participating and leading community projects, training and local events.</p> <p>2. Iowans with disabilities are trained by their peers to vote and become advocates.</p> <p>3. People with disabilities are leading self-advocacy initiatives to create change.</p>

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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.

Key Activities	Progress	Expected outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Engage YLA graduates and Community ambassadors with hosting these events in their communities. 3. Partner with our DD network partners including to promote events and host events. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need help with this on another rural area to visit. Met with the AEA in NE Iowa about providing this to their students Still need to work on how best to meet this. 2. Will continue to visit with YLA about hosting these. Will see about partnering with DRI about hosting something in the fall targeting Youth Council ideas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two community events are held in rural areas. 2. Tools and resources adapted. 3. Two voter training and/or local capitol days are hosted. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The DD Council will establish relationships with underserved populations. 2. Underserved populations advocate for their priorities.

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,

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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	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research state and federal public policies and trends affecting people with disabilities and share information to keep people informed. 2. Develop Policy briefs and/or white papers with key recommendations 3. Facilitate strong relationships with community organizations. 4. Collaborate with DD network partners (Disability Rights Iowa and the Center for Disabilities and Development) to identify issues and needs. 5. Foster relationships with policymakers to influence policy by meeting with key leaders prior to the 2025 session. 6. Participate and provide public comment in advisory boards, commissions and council meetings) and before administrative rules and legislative committees. 7. With Council members and DD network partners, develop an annual list of policy priorities that increase community living for people with disabilities. 8. Educate policymakers and other state leaders about gathering input from people with disabilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public policy priorities completed. Weekly bills of the week and advocacy talking points. Hosted Medicaid webinar and have been sharing updates on 504. Action alert on DOL rules 2. Weekly emails during session. 3. Continue to work with various disability organizations. Part of Blue Print for change, Multisector planning for aging. Held Education Webinar with Dept. of Ed and other DRI and ASK resource center. Been working more with ARC. Been working with Iowa Assoc. of the Deaf., Brain injury Alliance. With DRI and the UCEDD, we established a advocacy coalition to discuss Medicaid and other disability cuts to programs. We have sent a joint letter to congress and state legislators. We meet regularly 20+ organizations. 4. Meet regularly, did a joint statement on the Medicaid 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of policies shared through email social media and at events. 2. Two policy briefs developed. 3. Number of events and projects with other community organizations. 4. Monthly meetings with the DD network and number of issues identified. 5. Five meetings held with legislators prior to session. 6. DD Council open house held yearly with legislators. 7. Council staff will provide public comment at least five public meetings. 8. Priorities developed. 9. One educational event with legislators about gathering input held. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As of a result of the DD Council education, each session sees positive policy changes for people with disabilities. 2. Legislative leaders and state agencies obtain input from the DD Council about policy changes that affect people with disabilities.

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and sharing information in plain language.	<p>bill along with other joint advocacy efforts.</p> <p>5. Carlyn and George met with several offices in DC to share about the Council.</p> <p>6. Public comment made at work without worry, work requirements, CPT, testimony, seizure safe schools and autism support bill.</p> <p>7. Policy committee recommending keeping the same priorities and adding stories.</p> <p>8. In progress.</p>		
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.			
Key Activities	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use infoNET to inform Iowans with disabilities and their families about policies that impact community living and inclusion. 2. Share grassroots success stories of people advocating for themselves locally and at the state and federal levels. 3. Support and collaborate with the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute to help families advocate for themselves and others. 4. Host regular (at least monthly) policy calls with advocates and stakeholders during the legislative session for discussion and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sumer issue out 2. Sharing Medicaid stories and Allies stories. Allies developing their own Medicaid stories sheet. 3. Council is now sponsoring at a higher level. Training will be held at our office with Carlyn providing in May. 4. Capitol chat in August with focus on federal policy and voting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fifteen electronic issues of infoNet are produced, four print publications are produced. 2. 2,000 people with disabilities receive InfoNet. 3. Thirty-five social media posts are made. 4. Three success stories shared. 5. 10 family members are trained through the Iowa Family Leadership Training. 6. Eight policy calls are held. 7. 10 advocates attend each call. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a result of using the DD Council resources, people with disabilities and family members are instrumental in positive policy changes. 2. Legislative leaders and state agencies obtain input from people with disabilities and family members about policy changes that affect people with disabilities.

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questions about proposed legislation.			
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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	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
1. Partner with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, the Iowa Blue Print for Change, the Iowa Coalition on Integrated Employment, and our DD network to provide training opportunities to community rehabilitation providers.	1. Staff continue to be members of the committees and steering committee. Staff part of the NEON TA grant from HHS 2. Launched a workday with your legislator campaign with APSE.	1. Five community rehabilitation providers are trained. 2. Four events promoting integrated employment are held during NDEAM month. 3. 10 people with disabilities take their legislators or workday.	1. Iowans with disabilities and their families advocate for policies and practices that support integrated community employment. 2. More people with disabilities are competitively employed.

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<p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. Share employment success stories, with advocates, stakeholders, legislators and community businesses. Including stories about graduates from Comprehensive transition programs (i.e. REACH).</p> <p>4. Sponsor and collaborate with DD partners (the Autism Society, Association of People Supporting Employment First, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, and others) to host employment-specific conferences for people with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>5. With our DD network partners educate legislators on barriers for people with disabilities to gain employment and offer solutions.</p>	<p>3. Sharing employment stories in priorities and at reception with allies.</p> <p>4. Continue to support APSE and VR conferences. Worked with VR to have a CPT breakout session with the counselors conference in April.</p> <p>5. Big focus of our policy priorities.</p>	<p>4. Four employment success stories are shared.</p> <p>5. Thirty people with disabilities attend an employment-related conference.</p> <p>6. At least one proposed policy change to increase incentives for employment introduced.</p>	
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.			
Key Activities	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Develop and communicate informational briefs on lessons learned. 3. Implement the use of the health advocacy toolkit. 4. Continue to partner with the IABLE staff to provide education about the IABLE accounts to increase financial independency of people with DD. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet regularly with DD network partners to discuss issues. Education webinar held. 2. As needed. 3. Hosted a health advocacy webinar series with UCEDD and have a landing page on website with resources. 4. IABLE webinar held in August. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four community conversations are held. 2. One informational brief developed. 3. One health advocacy training is held. 4. One IABLE training is held. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovated practices promoting community inclusion are developed. 2. An increase in IABLE account holders
Objective 3.3 The DD Council will partner with the Division of Aging and Disabilities Department within the Health and Human Services and other DD network partners to improve policies and practices to support aging adults and their families and older lowans.			
Key Activities	Progress	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate a community of practice with members of the State Alliance Team to edit recourses in clear language. 2. Develop resources on alternatives to guardianship. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COP developed meeting in February. Suggested changes to the Medicaid application. Provided edits to the one page document on the plan for aging 2. Alternative to guardship booklet and handout done and distributed. Working with HHS on education Supported Decision Making. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five resources (i.e. applications educational material, flyers) will be edited in clear language. 2. Three resources (i.e. guide, videos modules will be developed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication with people with disabilities and older lowans will be improved. Team members will learn best practices. 2. People with disabilities and older lowans are able to make informed decisions on guardianship.