

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2020 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

IOWANS
WITH DISABILITIES
IN ACTION

OVER
9,400 IOWANS

MAKE UP THE IOWANS
WITH DISABILITIES IN
ACTION NETWORK

COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS

COVID-19 grants were awarded to **37** organizations. Funds were used to fill gaps in services & supports that people with developmental disabilities & their families experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I cannot remember receiving a grant of any size that was more exciting for all of us than the DD COVID-19 award! It came when we needed it most. It was a great way for the DD Council to remind Iowans with disabilities that they are valued & not forgotten."

infoNET

4,200+ Receive infoNET

Nearly **40%** of those surveyed spoke with legislators in 2020 about issues important to them. Nearly **90%** of those thought it was at least somewhat effective. **99%** of those using InfoNET's Guide to the Iowa Legislature thought it was helpful.

171

Iowans with disabilities, family members, advocates & providers registered for the Make Your Mark! virtual Conference.

MAKE
YOUR
MARK!

"Everyone has a voice, everyone can contribute."

"It was encouraging to be reminded individuals with disabilities can navigate their own lives & make their own choices when the needed supports are in place."

LEADERSHIP

The DD council partnered to train community ambassadors to speak about transitioning from an institution to their community.



OUR MISSION:

The DD Council will work to create change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.



GETTING TO KNOW MONNIE HALL

Growing up with 6 siblings created a childhood filled with adventure. Today, Monnie resides in an HCBS setting near Des Moines. Monnie loves shoes in all colors & enjoys sharing his experiences by adding to his autobiography.

Advocating is a big part of Monnie's life. As founder of 'The Happy Group', he helps create ideas for staff training, recognition, lunch-&-learns, & more. The Make Your Mark! Conference is a highlight each year. Monnie finds value in the sessions & hopes to one day be a MYM! speaker himself!



50 PEOPLE for 50 years

IDDC celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act by sharing stories of those positively impacted by the DD Act & the work of the IDDC. Monnie Hall is one who shared his story.

- The DD Council awarded **5** employment transformation grants to increase employment outcomes.
- The DD Council, in partnership with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, provided employment training to **20** community rehabilitation providers & **27** vocational rehabilitation counselors. **33** job candidates participated in the project.
- For Employment Awareness Month, the DD Council created **6** videos and were shared with legislators.

Employment

COVID-19 EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In partnership with Iowa Compass, the Iowa DD Council & Iowans with Disabilities in Action created 2 postcards to educate & inform Iowans with disabilities about the COVID-19 health crisis. The postcards reviewed ways to stay safe during the pandemic and how to keep others safe. Vaccine information was also shared for when it becomes available.



Along with Iowa Compass & COVID Recovery Iowa, a webinar was conducted for those who have experienced emotional & well-being challenges due to the social isolation that the COVID-19 pandemic requires.



GENERAL ELECTION OUTREACH

Three organizations were awarded **Voter Education Grants** to increase voter turnout among Iowans with disabilities.

The Spina Bifida Association of Iowa developed the "Voting Matters" campaign.

The **'Stay Healthy While Voting'** campaign taught voters how to remain safe while voting.



The campaign **'Voting: What's the big deal?'** answered common questions people have about voting.



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