

5-YEAR PLAN

A PLAN FOR PROGRESS

2022-2026

IOWA DDCouncil

Preparation, Participation, Power

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The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council believes all Iowans with disabilities, as well as their families, should be included in the communities where they choose to live.

To achieve this vision, we work with people with disabilities and their families to give them a voice about the types of supports they need and make sure they receive these supports.

Our work includes advocacy, policy improvements, and efforts to make the community stronger. We created a statewide network of advocates called Iowans with Disabilities in Action to help us reach our vision. Together, over the next five years, we plan to create positive change throughout Iowa.





OUR MISSION

To create change with and for lowans with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn, and play in the community of their choosing.

Over 9,400 lowans make up the lowans with Disabilities in Action Network.

ADVOCACY GOAL

DEVELOP STRONG ADVOCATES & LEADERS WHO CREATE THE CHANGE THEY WANT

By 2026, we will develop strong advocates and leaders who create the positive change they want so people with developmental disabilities live inclusive lives.

Expected Goal Outcome: People with developmental disabilities create positive change so they can live inclusive, productive lives.

OBJECTIVE 1: Annually increase the number of lowans with disabilities and family members who engage in the civic and political decision-making process.

OBJECTIVE 2: Annually increase the number of lowans with 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.

OBJECTIVE 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 is created.

OBJECTIVE 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.

SYSTEMS CHANGE GOAL

IMPROVE POLICY & PRACTICE THAT POSITIVELY IMPACTS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By 2026, improve policy and practice that positively supports services, supports and communities for people with developmental disabilities.

Expected Goal Outcome: Supports, services and communities are responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVE 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.

OBJECTIVE 2: With the use of DD Council resources, people with disabilities and/or their family members will annually propose new legislation and/or policy changes or improvements about an issue important to them.

CAPACITY BUILDING GOAL

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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.

Expected Goal Outcome: People with developmental disabilities will have the supports they need to live and thrive in the community.

OBJECTIVE 1: Through annual training, technical assistance, and resources, the DD Council will collaborate with the DD network, state agencies, and community programs to improve competitive employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVE 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.

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If you would like to provide feedback about our plan, please contact us by email at stateplan@iowaddcouncil.org or by phone at 800-452-1936.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 1901ASCDD-03, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.