

Iowa DD Council's Statement on U.S. DOJ Findings on Iowa Violating Title II of the ADA

Friday, December 10, 2021

DES MOINES, Iowa (December 2021) — The Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council is highly concerned with the U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights findings that Iowa is in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The findings indicate that Iowa unnecessarily institutionalizes people with intellectual or developmental disabilities

Brooke Lovelace, executive director of the Iowa DD Council, says she is not surprised. "Iowa has been over reliant on institutional services for decades. The DD Council has continually advocated for community services and supports that better support all people with disabilities to live in their communities. Iowa could and should do much better to build community capacity," says Lovelace.

The DD Council is encouraged that the findings report will provide Iowa the momentum to make the necessary changes that will improve the lives of Iowans with disabilities. The Iowa DD Council has been in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services with the development and implementation of their Community Integration Plan to address the critical issues identified in the findings report; however, this is not the job of one state agency. Creating welcoming and accessible communities is the shared responsibility of all Iowans, including advocates, community leaders, service providers and our elected officials. The DD Council looks forward to the opportunity to create a more inclusive and supportive Iowa for people with disabilities.

Link to report: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1454256/download>