

***Create change with and for people with developmental disabilities  
so they can live, work, learn and play in the communities of their choosing***

**GUIDE TO PLANNING THE NEXT 5 YEARS**

**1. Background:**

We are required by the Developmental Disabilities Act to submit a new 5-Year State Plan for 2022 through 2026. This is a road map for our future. The plan is due **August 15 2021**. That is why we are gathering input now! In previous years, Council staff members wrote the plan with little input from the Council. This time, we are including you in the process.

- The current short-version of the (2017-2021) 5-Year Plan can be found on our website here: [2017-2021 State Plan](#)
- The Plan lists two main goals: 1) **ADVOCACY** and 2) **SYSTEMS CHANGE**.
  - **Advocacy:** The key activities are:
    - Community and political engagement
    - Training and leading community groups to help community living, working and learning
    - Assist individuals with disabilities from various minority groups
  - **Systems Change:** The key activities are:
    - Policies and practices to strengthen community living, learning and working
    - Community employment
    - State and federal policy changes

**2. Survey:**

- Through a survey, the Council has input from Council members and Iowa advocates about priorities and opinions.
- We are pleased that 23 Council members and some 250 additional Iowans responded to the survey.
- The survey is full of good input. It is a great resource in developing our next 5-Year Plan.

Here is how the various participants ranked their priorities.

Priority	Self-Advocates	Family Advocates	Council Members	Service Providers	Community Members/Other
1.	Health	Health	Employment	Community Living	Health
2.	Housing	Housing (tied)	Community Living	Employment	Community Living
3.	Employment	Community Living (tied)	Self-Advocacy	Health	Housing
4.	Transportation	Employment	Transportation	Housing	Employment

To summarize:

#### THE TOP FOUR PRIORITIES

- Employment—listed by all six groups in their top four priorities.
- Health, Housing, Community Living—five groups placed all these in their top four rankings.
- Self-Advocacy—was only listed by one group—Council members—in their top four. However, it is required to be in the State Plan by the federal government.

#### 3. What We Will Cover:

At our June 11 Council meeting, we will focus on:

- Requirements for the 5-Year Plan.
- Key areas identified from the surveys that need further discussion.
- Additional questions that we will cover in the meeting. Please see questions on page three.
- Reviewing these questions and thinking of answers, will lead to a smooth and thoughtful discussion at the meeting.

#### 4. Key Points to Consider:

- We could decide to keep or change some of our current goals
- The focus will be on the big picture of the State Plan and not activities (such as conferences or training).
- If you feel you have a strong idea for a new activity in the next five years, do feel free to share it.

#### 5. How to Have a Positive Planning Session:

When we meet on ZOOM, here are ways to bring about a productive and positive discussion:

- This is a first—being online together as a large group. We will do our best to ensure that you have a chance to speak, if you want to do so.
- Please also feel free to use the “chat” option located on the bottom of the screen to type your comments
- If needed, we may have the facilitator/ DD staff call upon people to take turns, so you can be heard.
- Do share your thoughts. Be honest, polite, clear and brief. Stay on point.
- We appreciate hearing from many. It will be important for no one to control too much of the conversation or get off the topic at hand.
- This is one piece of a process. We are still gathering input.
- We will share a summary of the discussions with all of you by the end of June.
- Council members will continue to be part of the State plan development. The Council will need to vote on the draft plan at the March 2021 meeting

If you have any questions or need any help preparing for the June 11 meeting, please give Brooke a call. We look forward to your input!

## **June 11 Council Meeting Focus Group Questions**

### **Q1:**

Advocacy needs to be in the plan. **ADVOCACY** and **SYSTEMS CHANGE** will remain as our goals. In all the surveys, all groups ranked the following as their top priorities

- Employment, Health, Housing and Community Living.

Should we limit these to a couple to focus on or try to include all four into our new Plan?

- A. Let's discuss choosing a few of these priorities.
- B. Then, let's discuss if we should try to include all four.

### **Q2:**

Are you aware that lowans in Action in Disabilities in Action and nfoNET are DD Council projects—and that many of the resources and services we provide come from these project? Do we need to do more to make sure people understand that we provide these services and supports?

### **Q3:**

Listed below are the key activities in our current State Plan. Let's review. Which of these should we continue? Which should change in some way?

#### **ADVOCACY:**

- Community and Political Engagement
- Leadership
- Political Engagement by Asians, Latinos and African Americans and other underserved populations

#### **SYSTEMS CHANGE:**

- Policies and practices that support community living.
- Policies and practices that support employment.
- Policy changes specifically for individuals with Autism (Target Disparity Goal)

### **Q4:**

The plan is required to have a Targeted Disparity Activity (an activity or goal to assist a sub-population of people with developmental disabilities who are unserved or underserved)

Examples:

- People from ethnic and racial backgrounds
- People in rural or urban areas.
- Individuals with a specific disability, such as autism, cerebral palsy

The Targeted Disparity Goal in our current plan focuses on services to persons with autism.

We received many comments in the survey about needs in the rural populations.

What unserved or underserved sub-population of people should we focus on?

**Q5:**

Are there new areas to consider that should be in our Plan?

Examples:

- Responding to the emergencies and/or assisting with disaster recovery.
- Many survey takers said advocating for health rights is an important opportunity.