

	<p style="text-align: center;">Advocacy</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Systems Change</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Capacity Building</p> 
<p>Goal</p> 	<p>Develop strong advocates and leaders who create the change they want.</p>	<p>Improve policy and practice that positively impacts people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Strengthen communities to support people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Objectives</p> 	<p>1. Annually increase the number of lowans with Disabilities and family members who engage in the civic and political decision-making process.</p>	<p>1. Annually, target at least three key policy proposals (e.g. legislation, Executive Orders, or regulations being announced) for identifying 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 Council members.</p>	<p>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 disabilities.</p>
<p>Activities</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Host Local Capitol Days and town hall meetings. 2. Provide Advocacy Trainings and market that we are available to provide this. 3. Provide Voter Trainings and market that we are available to provide this to both community and facility sites. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research state and federal public policies and trends. 2. Facilitate strong relationships with community organizations. 3. Collaborate with Developmental Disabilities (DD) network partners (Disability Rights Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development) to identify issues and needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Iowa Coalition on Integrated Employment and our DD network to provide training opportunities to community rehabilitation providers. 2. Through infoNet and lowans with Disabilities in Action, promote National Disabilities Awareness month with various

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Host and support Make your Mark! and other self and family advocacy conferences. 5. Educate and inform through InfoNet, Social media posts/ emails. 6. Increase the number of advocates connected to the lowans with Disabilities in Action network. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Foster relationships with policymakers to influence policy. 5. Participate and provide public comment in commissions and council meetings (Mental Health Disability Services, Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC), Autism Council, Brain Injury Council, Olmstead Task Force). 6. With Council members and DD network partners, develop an annual list of policy priorities that increase community living for people with disabilities. 7. Educate policy makers and other state leaders about the importance of gathering input from people with disabilities and the importance of sharing information in plain language. 	<p>activities with local and state officials, legislators.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Share employment success stories. 4. Sponsor and collaborate with DD partners (the Autism Society, Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), Vocational Rehabilitation and others) to host employment specific conferences for people with disabilities and their families.
<p>Objectives</p>  <p>SMART</p> <p><small>SPECIFIC MEASURABLE ACHIEVABLE RELEVANT TIME-BASED</small></p>	<p>2. Annually increase the number of lowans with Disabilities, including young adults, and their family members, who lead and mentor others, and who take on leadership roles in projects that increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in community living.</p>	<p>2. With the use of DD Council resources, people with disabilities and/or family members will annually propose new legislation and/or propose policy changes or improvements about an issue important to them.</p>	<p>2. By September 30, 2027, the DD Council will partner with the DD Network, state agencies and/or other community programs to invest in at least two projects to demonstrate new approaches to direct services, enhance systems, respond to emergent issues, or eliminate barriers to access and use of community services (such as transportation, housing, assistive technology, health, education, emergency preparation).</p>

Activities



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prepare self-advocates to train others to register to vote and vote2. Support self-advocates, family advocates and Council members by hosting town hall meetings and other public awareness events, with both local and state leaders in their communities.3. Support peer mentoring programs-Community ambassadors.4. Support the mentoring program in the Talent Bank to increase the number of people with disabilities on boards and commissions.5. Host outreach and awareness campaigns about opportunities available on boards and commissions (local and state level).6. Create an intern position within Iowans with Disabilities in Action for a person with a disability to assist with training and projects. Work with Realizing Educational and Career Hopes (REACH), Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), and VR.7. Continue to partner to provide Youth Leadership Academy.8. Work with DD Network partners (Center for Disabilities and Development, | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inform Iowans with disabilities and their families are informed about policies that impact community living and inclusion- InfoNet2. Grassroots success stories of people advocating for themselves locally, at the state level and federal are shared3. Support and collaborate with the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute so families can advocate for themselves and others.4. Host at least monthly policy calls with advocates and stakeholders during the legislative session for discussion and questions about proposed legislation. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work with community partners to host community conversations to determine emergency issues that could be addressed through new initiatives.2. Develop and communicate informational briefs on lessons learned. |
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	<p>Child Health Specialty Clinics and others) to develop youth councils at the local level.</p> <p>9. Work with the DD network to train and mentor people with disabilities on how to be effective members of boards, councils and commissions.</p> <p>10. Work with boards, councils and commissions on how to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.</p>		
<p>Objectives</p> 	<p>3. By 2026, increase the number of Iowans with disabilities who successfully advocate for their own health care needs.</p>		<p>Targeted Disparity Objective: By 2026, in collaboration with our DD network partners and the Iowa Department of Human Rights, the DD Council will develop relationships with underserved and underrepresented populations (African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and American Indians) in rural areas of Iowa to increase the number of people aware of the Council, use the Council’s resources and participate in Council activities.</p>
<p>Activities</p> 	<p>1. With the DD network and other state partners, develop a toolkit of resources to provide health and health care advocacy education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those who support them.</p> <p>2. Work with the Special Health Care Needs advisory group on</p>		<p>Targeted Disparity Activities:</p> <p>1. With the assistance of Council members, seek out opportunities in council members’ communities to host and/or sponsor community conversations and awareness activities.</p> <p>2. Partner with the Department of Human Rights to host events in other rural communities.</p>

	educating Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers.		3. Continue to engage and sustain relationships developed.
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