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<p style="text-align: center;">Goal</p> 	<p><b>Strengthen advocacy and leadership skills of people with Developmental Disabilities and their families so that they can create change and be their own voice</b></p>	<p><b>Advocate for and with people with disabilities and other disability network partners to improve policy and practice that positively impacts people with disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in their communities</b></p>	<p><b>Through training, technical assistance and resources the Iowa DD Council will strengthen community services and supports for people with disabilities and their families so they can live, work learn and play in their communities</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objectives</p> 	<p><b>1. Increase the number of Iowans with Disabilities and family members who engage in the civic and political decision-making process.</b></p>	<p><b>1. Annually, target at least three key policy proposals (e.g. legislation, Executive Orders, or regulations being promulgated) for identifying opportunities to educate policymakers about the impact of specific policies and make recommendations to ensure policies align with the principles of the DD Act and the legislative priorities of Council members.</b></p>	<p><b>1. The DD Council will collaborate the DD network, state agencies, and community programs to improve competitive employment outcomes for people with disabilities</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Host Local capitol days</li> <li>2. Provide Advocacy trainings and market that we are available to provide this.</li> <li>3. Provide Voter trainings and market that we are available to provide this to both community and facility sites</li> <li>4. Host and support Make your mark and other self and family advocacy conferences</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research state and federal public policies and trends.</li> <li>2. Facilitate strong relationships with community organizations.</li> <li>3. Collaborate with DD network partners (disability Rights Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development) to identify issues and needs.</li> <li>4. Foster relationships with policymakers to influence policy.</li> <li>5. Participate and provide public comment in commissions and council</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, Iowa Coalition on Integrated Employment and our DD network to provide training opportunities to community rehabilitation providers</li> <li>2. Through infoNet and Iowans with Disabilities in Action, promote National Disabilities Awareness Month with various activities with local and state officials, legislators.</li> <li>3. Share employment success stories</li> </ol>

	<p>5. Educate and inform others through InfoNet, Social media posts/ emails</p>	<p>meetings (MHDS, MAAC, Autism Council, Brain Injury Council, Olmstead Task Force)</p> <p>6. With Council members and DD network partners develop annual list of policy priorities that increase community living for people with disabilities.</p> <p>7. <b>New Activity</b> 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>	<p>4. Sponsor and collaborate with DD partners (the Autism Society, APSE, vocational rehabilitation and others to host employment specific conferences to people with disabilities and their families</p>
<p>Objectives</p> 	<p><b>2. Increase the number of lowans with Disabilities including young adults, and their family members, that lead and mentor others and take on leadership roles in projects that increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in community living</b></p>	<p><b>2. With the use of DD Council resources, people with disabilities and/or family members will annually propose new legislation about an issue important to them.</b></p>	<p><b>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, or eliminate barriers to access and use of community services (such a transportation, housing, health, education, emergency preparation)</b></p>
<p>Activities</p> 	<p>1. Prepare self-advocates to train others to register to vote and vote</p> <p>2. Support self-advocates, family advocates and Council members with hosting town hall meetings with both local and state</p>	<p>1. lowans with disabilities and their families are informed about policies that impact community living and inclusion- INFONET</p> <p>2. Grassroots success stories of people advocating for themselves locally, at the state level and federal are shared</p>	<p>1. Work with community partners to host community conversations to determine emergency issues that could be addressed through new initiatives.</p>

	<p>leaders, and other public awareness events in the their communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Support peer mentoring programs-Community ambassadors</li><li>4. Support the mentoring program in Talent bank to increase those on boards and commissions</li><li>5. Host outreach and awareness campaign on opportunities available on boards and commissions (local and state level)</li><li>6. <b>New activity:</b> Create an intern position within lowans with disabilities in Action for a person with a disability to assist with training and projects. Work with REACH, DMACC, and VR</li><li>7. Continue to partner to provide youth leadership academy</li><li>8. <b>New activity:</b> work with DD Network partners (including CDD, Child Health Specialty Clinics and others) to develop youth councils at the local level</li><li>9. <b>New Activity</b> work with DD network to train and mentor people with disabilities, including DD council members on how to be effective members of boards, councils and commissions</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Support and collaborate with the Iowa Family Leadership Training institute so families can advocate for themselves and others.</li><li>4. Host at least monthly policy calls with advocates and stakeholders during the legislative session for discussion and questions about proposed legislation</li></ol>	
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<p>Objectives</p> 	<p>3. Increase the number of lowans with disabilities who successfully advocate for their own health care needs.</p>		<p><b>Targeted Disparity Objective: In collaboration with our DD network partners and the Iowa Department of Human Rights, develop relationships with underserved populations (African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans) in rural areas of Iowa to increase the number of people aware of the Council, use the Council resources and participate in Council activities.</b></p>
<p>Activities</p> 	<p>1. <b>New Activity:</b> With our 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. <b>New Activity:</b> Work with the Special Health Care Needs advisory group on educating EMS workers.</p>		<p>Targeted Disparity Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With the assistance of Council members, seek out opportunities in council members communities to host and/or sponsor community conversations and awareness</li> <li>2. Partner with Department of Human Rights to host events in other rural communities</li> </ol>