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## About the NCCDD

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) advocates for almost 200,000 North Carolinians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Every state and territory in the US has a Council on DD, and there are a total of 56 Councils. The NCCDD does not provide direct services. The Council is federally mandated and receives federal funds through the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (or DD Act) to ***promote self-determination, integration, productivity, inclusion and independence.***

The country's Councils on Developmental Disabilities were created in 1970 through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) to "engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities" that "contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family-centered, comprehensive system of community services and individualized supports."

The NCCDD works collaboratively, across the state, to "assure that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services and individualized supports."

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## Our Members

The Council is a 40-member body, appointed by the Governor, and is, by law, 60% people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. 40% of appointments include NC government departments, legislators, network partners, LME/MCOs, providers, and members of the public. Members represent the ethnic, cultural, and geographic diversity of NC.

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## Our Initiatives

The North Carolina Council is awarded \$2 million from the US Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) to invest in systems change. The NCCDD is governed by its membership and receives its funds through the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The NCCDD makes funds available for systems change efforts in accordance with the goals and objectives of a federally approved Five-Year State Plan. **Priorities include increasing financial security and asset development, increasing community living, and promoting advocacy development for people with I/DD.** Funding for systems change initiatives is made available primarily through competitive bids or Requests for Applications (RFAs).

Recently funded initiatives have focused on

- NC Registry of Unmet Needs
- alternatives to guardianship
- expanding employment options
- effective transition from school to work
- reentry from state prisons.
- leadership development and advocacy
- financial asset building education
- healthcare and coordinated health supports
- strengthening choices & options for community living

## 2022 – 2026

### Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives

**GOAL 1:** By 2026, increase financial security through asset development for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

OBJECTIVE A: Increase Employment First within educational institutions, governmental entities, and society at large.

OBJECTIVE B: Increase integrated competitive employment and long-term careers for people with I/DD through best and promising practices.

OBJECTIVE C: Increase financial asset development and security by increasing knowledge (financial education/benefits planning), developing financial plans and implementing the plan's goals.

**GOAL 2:** By 2026, increase community living for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

OBJECTIVE A: Increase access to affordable, accessible, safe, and fully integrated housing that provides choice and flexibility regarding where and with whom they live.

OBJECTIVE B: Increase individuals with I/DD's access to transportation by identifying and implementing strategies to eliminate barriers through collaboration with transportation agencies, state and local agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups.

OBJECTIVE C: Increase equitable access to home and community-based healthcare, preventative healthcare, wellness opportunities, and address unmet health-related resource needs through individual, family, and stakeholder education and provider capacity building.

OBJECTIVE D: Increase person and family-centered transition education and lifespan planning.

OBJECTIVE E: Increase the knowledge, training, and support for professionals that provide services to people with I/DD.

**GOAL 3:** By 2026, increase advocacy for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

OBJECTIVE A: Increase support to a statewide self-advocacy organizations(s) through leadership development and coalition participation by: (i) establishing or strengthening a program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization(s) led by individuals with I/DD, (ii) supporting opportunities for individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with I/DD who may become leaders and, (ii) participation in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

OBJECTIVE B: Increase individual, family, public and systems educational opportunities and engagement to improve the lives of individuals with I/DD and the system; with additional specific targeted disparity emphasis to increase the knowledge and engagement of members of the Hispanic/Latinx communities.

OBJECTIVE C: Increase understanding and awareness of policymakers, state leaders, and the larger community of the unmet needs of individuals with I/DD in North Carolina; with additional specific emphasis on DD Council collaboration with the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDDS) and the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights System (P&A).

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