

# **NEVADA**

**GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL**

**ON**

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Executive Summary**

**Five Year State Plan**

**Goals, Objectives & Activities for:**

**October 2016 – September 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Nevada Council on Developmental Disabilities is funded through a formula grant authorized under Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

The purpose of the Council, as defined by statute, is to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered, consumer and family directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

The Councils utilize strategies such as training, educating policy makers and communities, coalition development, barrier elimination, and demonstration of new approaches to service to meet the mandated purpose. These strategies are incorporated into a five-year State Plan that includes, and is based on, a comprehensive review and analysis of services, supports, and other assistance in the State available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**COUNCIL COMPOSITION**

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, PL 106-402, mandates the Council composition as follows:

No less than sixty percent of the Council must consist of individuals with developmental disabilities; parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities; immediate relatives or guardians of adults with mentally impairing developmental disabilities who cannot advocate for themselves. Members representing this group may not be employed by any state agency that provides services to people with developmental disabilities.

Of the 60% represented, 1/3 must be individuals with developmental disabilities, 1/3 must be parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities or a relative or guardian of an adult with disabilities and 1/3 may be a combination of the first two groups.

In addition, one member of the Council must be an immediate relative or guardian of an individual who resides or has previously resided in an institution or an individual who resides or has previously resided in an institution.

The balance of the Council is composed of representatives from agencies that administer programs that provide services to people with disabilities and include: the Rehabilitation Act, IDEA, the Older Americans Act, Title V and XIX of the Social Security Act, the Protection and Advocacy agency and the University Center for Excellence. One non-governmental provider agency is also represented.

Council members are appointed by the Governor to serve a three-year term. Statutes provide for rotation of council membership and Council bylaws establish a maximum of three consecutive terms for members, except for those members representing mandatory agencies.

**FUNDING**

Each state council receives funds from the Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration on Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services in the form of a basic grant calculated on a population formula and a required matching requirement. Nevada is a “minimum allotment state” based on the current formula and has received, on average, $470,000 per year. Although Councils determine how funds will be used, the funds flow through a state agency designated by the Governor of each state. The Designated State agency in Nevada is the Office of Disability Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

**FIVE-YEAR STATE PLAN**

Each State Developmental Disabilities Council is required to submit a five-year plan to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities outlining the intended use of federal funding allocated for its basic operational grant. Federal law mandates that the plan address some or all of the Areas of Emphasis established by Congress. The Areas of Emphasis are as follows:

Child Care

Community Supports

Early Intervention

Education

Employment

Health Related

Housing

Quality Assurance

Recreation

Transportation

Surveys were distributed and conducted via email, Facebook, in person and through focus groups throughout the state. Accessible formats and accommodations were provided as needed. The Survey consisted of 5 questions; 2 multiple choice, followed by 3 open ended questions designed to elicit a more comprehensive response to the identified choices in question 2, which were taken from the Areas of Emphasis in the DD Act.

A total of **331** responses were received, with over 900 open ended questions reviewed. All responses were anonymous to allow for complete honesty.

Basic Findings:

* Individuals with disabilities were the most represented population of the survey
* The 3 most important Areas of Emphasis in the DD Act were:

1. Access to Services
2. Education/Training
3. Health

* To get those things people needed the following 3 things the most

1. A better job/employment
2. Better transportation
3. More/better social opportunities (friends, recreation opportunities, etc.)

* The top 3 barriers to getting what they need were

1. Lack of money (Federal/ state/agency funding, better paying job, etc.)
2. Not knowing what resources are available or what to plan for.
3. Lack of resources/services (employment, qualified healthcare, etc.)

(Results from the survey can be viewed at nevadaddcouncil.org)

Each five-year plan is reviewed and updated annually. An Annual Program Performance Report is submitted indicating Council activities and progress made toward each identified Goal. The Goals, Objectives and Activities established by the Council to be addressed during the five-year period, October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021, are:

**GOAL 1: Increase and strengthen the knowledge of individuals with I/DD to promote/encourage informed decision making about their choices leading to improved quality of life, increased independence, productivity and full inclusion in their communities.**

Objectives:

* 1. Partner with at least three Hispanic Organizations throughout Nevada to provide greater access to information and services for persons with I/DD enabling the Hispanic Community to have a voice in disability issues, thereby; reducing barriers to services and supports.

Activities:

1. Engage in outreach to targeted Hispanic communities statewide to promote improved access to information and services.
2. Eliminate barriers to accessing Council systems change, advocacy and capacity building initiatives by translating important and relevant documents created by the Council to Spanish.
3. Distribute translated materials to identified Hispanic organizations and groups across the State with follow up communications to those agencies to gauge the impact of the materials.
4. Provide increased level of support and information to the Hispanic Community during legislative sessions.
   1. Partner with Nevada Communities for the development of 6 community based events and activities to be held in all regions of the State each fiscal year, to educate and inform individuals with I/DD, their families and professionals about important and emerging disability related issues, services and supports available in their communities and statewide.

Activities:

1. Public Awareness Collaboration Events (PACE) will be developed in communities across the State to inform individuals with I/DD, their families and professionals about resources and/or topics of concern identified by consumers in the Council’s 5 Year State Plan to include targeted disparity, emerging issues and areas of emphasis identified in the DD Act.
2. PACE Events to include at least two specific events relevant to un/underserved populations.
   1. Participate in a minimum of 6 (councils/committees/coalitions) to promote communication within and between agencies to ensure cohesive information about services and supports is available to all persons with I/DD.

Activities:

1. Council members/staff will participate in statewide committees and councils comprised of multiple agency representatives (ICC, CSPD, DAC, etc.)
2. Self-Advocacy Coordinator will attend statewide committees and councils comprised of multiple agency representatives and bring that information back to the self-advocates.
   1. AIDD Partners: Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD); Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED); Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC, will partner to train a minimum of 20 persons per year to become knowledgeable on how to create accessible materials, media and websites, thereby; increasing the number of persons with I/DD that have access to important information.

Activities:

1. AIDD Partners will develop and offer training with resource materials.
2. AIDD Partners will promote training
3. AIDD Partners will work collaboratively to monitor and provide feedback to those persons trained as to their increased accessibility of materials, media and websites going forward.

**GOAL 2: Ensure individuals with I/DD have the education and training necessary to participate in advocacy and policy making activities.**

Objectives

* 1. Establish or strengthen a minimum of one State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with I/DD

Activities

1. The Council will hire a Self-Advocacy Coordinator to provide support for self-advocacy organizations across the state by providing guidance and dissemination of information.
2. Self-Advocacy Coordinator will convene regular meetings (video-conference, telephone or in person) with I/DD Network representatives and individuals across the state to promote relationship building, information and resource sharing,
3. Self-Advocacy Coordinator will identify and share funding opportunities to assist self-advocacy organizations in achieving/maintaining sustainability.
4. Self-advocates will participate in the biennial Legislative sessions by bringing forward issues that are important to them and taking a leadership role in developing their own legislative agenda.
   1. Support opportunities annually for a minimum of 10 individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.

Activities:

1. A Youth Leadership initiative will be established in two regions of the State engaging Partners in Policymaking graduates and self-advocacy leaders to provide information to students with I/DD, their teachers and parents regarding self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education and employment options.
2. Provide funding opportunities for members of the I/DD community to attend disability-related conferences/summits to share knowledge, information, etc. from the event to other Nevadans with I/DD.
3. Self-Advocacy Coordinator will facilitate the collaboration for the Youth Leadership Initiative.
   1. A minimum of one culturally diverse organization in Northern, Southern, and other regions of Nevada will be provided information to provide support to expand participation of individuals with I/DD in cross-disability culturally diverse leadership groups.

Activities:

1. NGCDD Members/NGCDD Staff will establish a partnership with a culturally diverse organization in each region of the State.
2. Education, information and training will be provided to develop leaders within the identified organization to support and expand participation of those with I/DD.
3. As appropriate, provide direct funding to support people with developmental disabilities to serve on cross-disability and culturally diverse boards, committees and workgroups.
   1. AIDD Partners: Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD); Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED); Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC), will support leadership training for a minimum of 20 persons annually (10 persons with I/DD and 10 family members).

Activities:

1. AIDD Partners will provide sponsorship as appropriate.
2. AIDD Partners will recruit and promote training.
3. AIDD Partners will provide staff as needed.
4. AIDD Partners will identify sponsors to support the training.

**GOAL 3: In conjunction with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and community entities, develop and strengthen systems that improve quality of services and access to quality services and supports in their local communities.**

Objectives:

* 1. Create one transportation system model that is sustainable and replicable and will serve people with I/DD across the State.

Activities:

1. Develop a Notice of Funds Available to create innovative solutions that will move the State into expanded, sustainable, universally designed and accessible transportation.
2. Share information with current local and State transportation systems to develop funding and implement these systems.
   1. A minimum of 10 strategies identified in The Nevada Strategic Plan for Integrated Employment will be implemented through collaboration with major stakeholders.

Activities:

1. Continue working with SELN
2. Council Staff will play a major role in the technical assistance grant through the Institute for Community Living.
3. Collaborate with the Integrated Employment Coalition to advocate for legislative and/or policy change
   1. Develop and/or strengthen a minimum of one system that improves quality of services and access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD in their local communities by working with agencies to bring awareness and training to public safety and emergency responder throughout the State of Nevada.

Activities:

1. Work with Public Safety Entities to develop and provide awareness and training to Emergency Personnel across the State in order to provide a higher level of care and service to individuals with I/DD.
   1. Annually educate a minimum of 100 persons with I/DD and their families to be able to make informed choices throughout their lifespan.

Activities:

1. Collaborate with community partners to help facilitate the progress of telehealth as established through 2015 legislation to enable people with I/DD in rural areas to access more health-related services.
2. Provide educational information throughout the disability community and to disability providers to better enable informed choice throughout the lifespan.
3. Collaborate with organizations to help facilitate accessible and appropriate information on healthcare resources to people with I/DD.