

NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Summary Five Year State Plan Goals, Objectives & Activities

October 2021 – September 2026

Introduction

The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) is a self-governing organization authorized in the Federal I/DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and established under Nevada Revised Statute 232.320, housed within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

We serve as an independent educator to the Governor and legislature on public policy issues and engage in community advocacy, system’s change and capacity building activities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families in order to promote equal opportunity, self-determination and community inclusion.

Key Activities

- ➔ Serving as an independent educator to the Governor and legislature on public policy issues that impact people with I/DD.
- ➔ Gathering input on the services available and barriers faced by people with I/DD to create a Five Year State Plan that address the most important issues identified based on funding, capacity and Federal “Areas of Emphasis” outlined in the DD Act.
- ➔ Advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all areas of community life for people with I/DD.
- ➔ Funding innovative projects that test best practices or look at new approaches to inform policies and practices that lead to greater independence and self-sufficiency for people with I/DD
- ➔ Supporting people with I/DD and their families to be full and equal participants in decisions that affect their lives.

“Experience Based Informed Choice”

The NGCDD firmly supports experience based informed choice in all areas of life, which is the process of choosing from a wide range of options based on accurate information, experience and knowledge.

Summary of Identified Needs

Input gathered from individuals with I/DD, families, professionals and state services led to the following findings. A more detailed background on Federal regulations for State Plans, findings, and how they connect with the proposed plan can be found on our website www.nevadaddcouncil.org or by calling 775-684-8619.

Top Federal Areas of Emphasis Based on Identified Needs and Funding Capacity:

- ➡ Employment
- ➡ Health
- ➡ Quality Assurance = monitoring, improving or providing education on services to prevent abuse, neglect, discrimination or interfere with basic human rights
- ➡ Transportation
- ➡ Housing
- ➡ Education (school age through college and transition services in high school)

Top Barriers to Accessing Areas of Emphasis:

- ➡ Long wait lists/not enough services
- ➡ Not knowing what services are available.
- ➡ Not enough or can't access coordinated health, dental, mental health, and other human and social services.
- ➡ Not enough services or support for residential/assisted living or other housing options.
- ➡ Not enough accessible and/or affordable transportation options.
- ➡ Not enough transition services into to adulthood.
- ➡ Not enough services or supports for getting and keeping a paying job.
- ➡ Hispanic and Rural communities are most lacking in all Areas of Emphasis.

Targeted Disparity = sub population within the disability community (i.e., racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, mental/behavioral health, gender minority groups or other stigmas with developmental disabilities) vulnerable to disparities (i.e., health, education, employment, overall safety, transportation, etc.).

Proposed Goals, Objectives and Activities

GOAL 1: Individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD will be able to make more informed decisions about their lives by improving access to information on services, supports and rights.

Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services, targeted disparity (racial/ethnic and rural communities).

Objectives:

1.1 In house Council members and staff will provide and participate in public education activities that increase Nevada's awareness of disability services, policies and practices.

Activities:

- a) Self-Advocacy coordinator will create and distribute a statewide quarterly newsletter in English and Spanish via email, direct mailing and social media that provides resources, information and supports in plain language on advocacy, current policy issues, health, mental health, social services, housing, transportation, employment, education, transition, quality assurance and other subjects relevant to the North, South and Rural areas of the State.
- b) Self-Advocacy coordinator will regularly collect input to gauge impact and inform future newsletters.
- c) Council members and staff will participate in at least 5 Public Awareness Events in communities across the State to inform individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and professionals about resources and/or topics of concern identified through public input for this State Plan.

1.2 In house Council members and staff will 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 more individuals with I/DD and their families.

Activities:

- a) Council members and staff will participate in statewide committees and councils comprised of multiple agency representatives.
- b) Council members and staff will regularly report on information gathered to Council members and self-advocates. Self-Advocacy coordinator will include this information in the quarterly newsletter.

1.3 Grant Reduce identified barriers to accessing technology and digital information for individuals with I/DD representing racial and/or ethnic disparities, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired and/or those living in rural communities.

Activities:

- a) Use information gathered from Council efforts and other stakeholder input to educate technology service providers and policymakers on the barriers faced by people with I/DD and recommendations on best practice for systems change.
- b) Work with digital providers and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations.
- c) Provide ongoing, coordinated outreach to Hispanic, Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Rural communities statewide on resources and supports for accessing digital information needed to make informed decisions, and track outcomes to inform future needs.

1.4 In house Council members and staff will address emerging needs of individuals with I/DD through state, regional, or local level systemic change.

Activities:

- a) Use information gathered from Council efforts and other stakeholder input to develop and implement advocacy and communication efforts in conjunction with individuals with I/DD, family members and other key stakeholders to address needed changes to statutes, rules, policies, procedures, practices, and/or funding/staffing issues that improve outcomes for individuals with I/DD.
- b) Work with key stakeholders and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations.
- c) Provide ongoing, coordinated outreach to Access and Functional Needs communities statewide on resources and supports for emerging needs and track outcomes to inform future needs.

GOAL 2: Individuals with I/DD will have the information, education and training necessary to participate in local and state advocacy and policy making activities.

Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Education (school aged through college), DD Act Mandates for Advocacy, DD Network Collaboration, Youth and Leadership

Objectives

2.1 In house Council members and staff will establish or strengthen a minimum of one State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada. (DD Act Mandate)

Activities

- a) Support individuals with I/DD to participate in Legislative sessions by providing information on current policy initiatives and meeting with their legislators to educate them on issues important to them.

- b) Provide annual funding opportunities for individuals with I/DD to attend disability-related conferences and summits to increase their knowledge and share that knowledge with other Nevadans with developmental disabilities.
- c) Self-Advocacy coordinator will collaborate with DD Network Partners and other DD stakeholders to facilitate a DD Network Statewide Self Advocacy Summit every other year, led by individuals with I/DD for individuals with I/DD, to identify common barriers, increase advocacy skills, knowledge and connections to create a stronger unified voice within the I/DD community.

2.2 In house Council members and staff will annually support individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders, to provide leadership training to 15 individuals with I/DD who may become leaders. (DD Act Mandate)

Activities:

- a) Self-Advocacy coordinator will annually implement curriculums such as the NGCDD Youth Empowering Students Y.E.S. peer to peer education model in a total of 3 schools throughout the state (North, South and Rural) to provide students and teachers with information on self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education, employment and other transition options upon graduation.
- b) Council members will participate in the implementation of curriculums as appropriate.

2.3 In house Council members and staff will support people with I/DD to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions. (DD Act Mandate)

Activities:

- a) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members and advocacy groups to annually identify 5 individuals with I/DD representing North, South and Rural areas of the state who want to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions.
- b) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members to support identified individuals to find Coalitions that would best fit their interests and support education to those Coalitions on the benefits of including individuals with I/DD, and how best to include them.

2.4 In house DD Network Partners: Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) and Council members; Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED); Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC), will annually support leadership training for a minimum of 20 individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD. (DD Act Mandate)

Activities:

- a) Council staff will facilitate training.
- b) Council members will participate in trainings as appropriate.
- c) DD Network Partners will provide support and sponsorship as appropriate.
- d) DD Network Partners will recruit and promote training.
- e) DD Network Partners will provide staff as needed.

GOAL 3: Develop and strengthen systems that improve quality services and access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD and their families.

Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Employment, Health, Education (transition services in high school), Transportation and Housing, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services.

Objectives:

3.1 Grant Create systems change through the implementation of policies to reduce the barriers to transportation for people with I/DD in Nevada.

Activities:

- a) Use the NGCDD Transportation Ad-Hoc Committee White Paper and other best practice findings to educate transportation providers and policymakers on the barriers faced by people with I/DD and recommendations on best practice for systems change.
- b) Work with transportation providers and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations through the creation of a statewide transportation board(s), ensuring individuals with I/DD have prominent roles on those boards.

3.2 Grant Educate individuals with I/DD, their families and community-based employers/employer groups on National best practices, and the benefits of hiring individuals with I/DD.

Activities:

- a) Annually provide coordinated outreach and education to 20 community-based employers/employer groups on National best practices for employing individuals with I/DD in Nevada.
- b) Annually provide coordinated outreach and education to 30 individuals with I/DD and their families on employment rights and options in Nevada.

3.3 Grant Improve access to quality housing options and supports for individuals with I/DD Statewide.

Activities:

- a) Fund initiatives to study current housing options available to individuals with I/DD.
- b) Annually provide coordinated outreach and education to 30 individuals with I/DD and their families on housing options and supports.

3.4 Grant Increase access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD transitioning into or in adulthood.

Activities:

- a) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to annually educate a minimum of 20 professionals statewide (to include teachers, community and state agency personnel) on the rights, services and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school.

- b) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to annually educate 15 parents statewide on the rights, services and options available to individuals with I/DD after high school.
- c) Engage Council members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, self-advocacy leaders and DD Network Partners to annually educate a minimum of 15 individuals with I/DD statewide living in group or nursing homes on the rights, services and options available to them.

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