

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Vision: All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing members of their communities.

Purpose:

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 23-member volunteer board, created by federal and state law and appointed by the Governor, whose purpose is to advocate for Idahoans with developmental disabilities to assure that they have access to needed community supports, individualized services and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in Idaho communities. The Council advocates with and on behalf of Idahoans with developmental disabilities by listening to their concerns and working to help them improve their lives by building service systems and natural supports that enable them to live lives of independence, responsibility, meaning and contribution.

2012-2016 Goals and Objectives:

The following plan was written in plain language. Plain language writing focuses on the needs of the reader and includes only the most important information that is written in a way to help everyone clearly understand what we hope to make happen in the next five years.

OUTCOME STATEMENT

All Idahoans work together to build a shared vision of community inclusion where...

...the public knows about the value and strengths of people with developmental disabilities,

...people with developmental disabilities are able to get the services and supports they need,

... people with developmental disabilities and their families are able to get easy-to-understand information, and

... leaders with developmental disabilities are supported to grow.

Goal 1 - Service System Improvement: People with developmental disabilities have more choice, equal opportunities, and the right individualized services and supports.

- Objective 1.1 To increase the number of students with developmental disabilities who are included in regular classrooms and school activities, work with partners to support and put in place a model for best practice in inclusive education in at least one (1) school.
- Objective 1.2 To create more opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to have jobs in the community that are integrated, inclusive, and pay more than minimum wage, work with partners on a statewide employment first project that includes educating communities, training staff, and writing state policy to improve the services that support fully integrated, competitive employment.
- Objective 1.3 Work with others to support Disability Mentoring Day activities in at least five (5) communities each year to help youth find out about jobs in their communities.
- Objective 1.4 Keep the Council involved with other groups to work on policy issues to make sure the needs and main concerns of people with developmental disabilities are part of service system policy recommendations and products.
- Objective 1.5 Increase the quality of support staff by providing or supporting training that builds the skills and knowledge of up to 200 direct support staff each year.
- Objective 1.6 To help fill the gaps in traditional developmental disability services, do research to learn ways to increase natural supports in Idaho communities and provide a report with recommendations by year five (5) of the plan.

Goal 2 - Leadership Development: People with developmental disabilities and families come together as a strong voice for local and state system change.

Objective 2.1 Provide money each year to support one (1) statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 2.2 Work with people with developmental disabilities and other partners to host at least one statewide self-advocacy conference and support self-advocate leaders to provide other leadership development training.

Objective 2.3 Provide or support at least one leadership development program for parents and family members of people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 2.4 Create a diverse community-based leadership coalition in one (1) community to advocate on issues of concern that can be copied in other parts of the state.

Goal 3 - Information/Outreach/Inclusion: Communities are welcoming and inclusive with more understanding of the strengths and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3.1 Promote inclusion by including people with developmental disabilities in at least two (2) non-disability community programs, organizations, activities or media campaigns each year.

Objective 3.2 Provide easy-to-understand information about Idaho's developmental disability service systems through printed materials, social media, and a Council website that is updated at least every three (3) months.

Goal 4 – Plan Monitoring and Oversight: The Council will get the support and training needed to oversee the completion of plan goals.

Objective 4.1 Council plans will be updated each year and progress to meet goals will be reported every three (3) months.

Objective 4.2 At least once a year, Council members will get training about their responsibilities under the law.

Objective 4.3 Council members will have easy-to-understand information and staff support needed to develop a yearly policy agenda.