Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities 2027-2031 Plan

Approved by the Council on July 17, 2026
Revisions approved by the Council on October 22, 2026

Background

The work of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is guided by a 5-year plan. Every five years, the Council collects information from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, service providers, public agencies, and other organizations to decide what the Council's focus should be for the next five years.

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 23-member, Governor appointed, statewide, volunteer board. Members include people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members of adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, service providers, state agency representatives, and representatives of Idaho's protection and advocacy system, Disability Rights Idaho, and the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho.

The purpose of the Council is to make sure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members have the individualized community-based services and supports they need. Another critical role the Council plays in Idaho is to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members to have the lead voice in making improvements to current services and provide direction to the design of new services and supports.

Developmental Disabilities Act Requirements

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 requires Councils to specify 5-year goals for advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change. These goals must be developed through data collected from public input and strategic planning. Councils are required to work on self-advocacy and leadership development of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities during each year of the plan.

2027-2031 Plan

In 2027-2031, the Council plans to work on ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members have a voice in changing service systems (Goal 1), improving access to quality services (Goal 2), reducing abuse, neglect, and exploitation (Goal 3), and leadership and advocacy (Goal 4).

Goal 1: During each year of the plan, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members inform and direct changes in Idaho's service systems, ensuring that system changes meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

- **Objective 1.1:** Support the leadership of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members in the KW vs Armstrong Lawsuit settlement
- **Objective 1.2:** Support the leadership of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members in Community NOW!
- **Objective 1.3:** Support the leadership of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members in the implementation of Medicaid managed care in Idaho

Goal 2: By 2031, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have increased access to quality services that meet their needs and preferences

- **Objective 2.1:** Work with partners to address Idaho's direct support workforce shortage by advocating for standardized training and improved wages and benefits for direct support professionals
- **Objective 2.2:** Inform policymakers about the lack of access to quality services in rural Idaho and advocate for improvements
- **Objective 2.3:** Continue to build capacity for person-centered planning in Idaho
- **Objective 2.4:** Work with partners to monitor and advise the statewide START program implementation and inform policymakers about the lack of quality services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental illness throughout the State of Idaho

Goal 3: By 2031, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are safer from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as a result of an increase in knowledge and understanding and access to a caregiver misconduct registry

- **Objective 3.1:** Work with partners to establish and promote an Idaho caregiver misconduct registry
- **Objective 3.2:** Support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide training to others with intellectual and developmental disabilities on healthy relationships, sexuality, and sexual self-advocacy

Goal 4: During each year of the plan, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members develop their leadership, share their lived experiences, and provide education and information on issues important to them, as they advocate on local, state and/or national level

- **Objective 4.1:** Establish a state self-advocacy program based on needs, interests, and preferences of Idaho self-advocates
- **Objective 4.2:** Develop leadership of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members by hosting two classes of Idaho Partners in Policymaking, with a focus on rural Idaho, and supporting Partners in Policymaking graduates to participate in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and pursue additional training and activities
- **Objective 4.3:** During each year of the plan, monitor policy issues that affect the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members, inform them of these issues, support them to advocate on these issues, and promote the Council's position on these issues
- **Objective 4.4:** Respond to any natural or man-made disaster that affects people with developmental disabilities and family members