

Council Values

- Disability is natural.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have skills, capabilities and personal goals.
- Services and supports should be designed to meet the goals of each individual and/or family.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families know best what they need and should be the primary decision makers regarding the services and supports they receive.
- Communities grow stronger with the full and active participation of members with developmental disabilities.

DD Council Members

The Council consists of Iowa citizens appointed by the Governor.

- Sixty percent of council members are people with disabilities and family members.
- The Council also includes representatives of state and private agencies such as the State Departments of Human Services, Education, Elder Affairs, Public Health, Iowa Protection & Advocacy, and the Center for Disabilities and Development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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DDCouncil

Preparation

Participation

Power

**Our lives begin to end the day
we become silent about the things
that matter.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Be heard. We're counting on you.

**It is easy to sit up and take notice.
What's difficult is getting up and
taking action.**

Honore Balzac

What action will you take?

Council's Role

Iowa's Developmental Disabilities Council advocates for and prepares Iowans with developmental disabilities to more effectively advocate for a coordinated system of services and supports that provide them with opportunities to live in communities of their choice.

What is a Developmental Disability?

A developmental disability is a lifelong physical and/or mental disability acquired before the age of 22 years. A developmental disability results in limitations in everyday life activities such as self-care, learning, employment and independent living.

We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.
Thomas Jefferson

The Council in Action

The Council plays a key role in helping people with developmental disabilities live, learn, work and play in the communities of their choice. The Council assists them by:

- Influencing changes to laws, policies and attitudes that affect the supports and services Iowans with developmental disabilities need to live in their own homes and communities.
- Building the capacity of Iowans with disabilities to make choices about where and how they live, and the capacity of communities to welcome them with accommodations that integrate and include them.
- Assisting Iowans with developmental disabilities and family members to be advocates and leaders who are active participants in decision-making processes that affect them.

Council Initiatives & Activities

The Council works in concert with a variety of stakeholders, including state agencies, boards and commissions, statewide advocacy organizations and individuals affected by disability to influence systems change that supports Iowans with disabilities to be fully included in the communities of their choice. Other efforts include:

- **ID Action**—Iowans with Disabilities in Action offers people with disabilities the tools to do everything from registering to vote to running for office.

- **Advocacy University**—A statewide, hands-on advocacy skills training initiative that includes a core curriculum designed to increase civic and political participation.
- **infoNET**—Publication that provides information about public policy of interest to Iowans with disabilities.
- **Advocating Change Day**—An event uniting people with disabilities across the state to develop and practice their advocacy skills and communicate directly with legislators.
- **Lobbyist Apprentice Program**—Provides first-hand lobbying experience for Iowans with disabilities.
- **Grants**—Provides funding for nonpartisan activities such as education workshops, coalition-building activities, advocacy training, candidate forums, etc.
- **Disability Vote Coalition**—Enlists the support of partners in the disability community to organize Iowans with disabilities as active and engaged voters working to influence change through elections.
- **Capitol Youth Day**—Brings young people with and without disabilities together to the State Capitol to experience the legislative process and rally around the importance of civic engagement.
- **Public Policy**—The Council's policy efforts are centered on improving access to community living by shifting policy and funding toward a more equitable community-based disability services system that values consumer choice and results, and ensures safe, quality living options.