



# Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities is located within the Division of Public Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

## Who We Are

Councils on Developmental Disabilities were formed into federal law and were created by the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) in 1970.

- The Administration for Community Living, the Administration on Disabilities, and the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are the federal entities responsible for Council oversight.
- Councils are funded in every State and Territory of the United States and represent a Federal-State partnership in developing futures for and with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
- The Governor appoints twenty-five State Council members for a three-year term and at least 60% of the public membership consists of individuals with developmental disabilities or parents/guardians/family members of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) guarantees that individuals with developmental disabilities are able to have access to community services. The bill also allows that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families help create and have access to programs that promote:

Independence ▲ Productivity ▲ Integration ▲ Inclusion ▲ Self-Determination

## Our Mission

The Council engages in *Advocacy*, *Capacity Building*, and *Systemic Change* in activities that assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design and have access to the needed community services, individualized support, and other forms of assistance that promote **self-determination**, **independence**, **productivity**, and **integration and inclusion** in all facets of community life.

## What We Do

Priorities identified in a five-year state plan focus on improving the system of supports for individuals with disabilities and their families. Goals concentrate on individuals who experience a severe disability that occurs before the age of twenty-two, including individuals with physical disabilities, mental/behavioral health conditions, and developmental disabilities. Support systems across the lifespan are examined.

The Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities:

- Awards funding to various agencies, organizations and other entities to address gaps and barriers in the system identified in the Council's State Plan;
- Identifies legislation introduced and provides education and technical assistance to legislators and policymakers on the impact of these bills on individuals with developmental disabilities;
- Presents testimony at relevant hearings and follows applicable regulation development; and
- Participates in workgroups, advisory committees, task forces, and coalitions that affect policy-making at the state level to ensure discussions include the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities  
The following goals were selected as priority goals for the next five years  
2022-2026:

Improve competitive, integrated, and meaningful opportunities for employment for  
Nebraskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities

. . .

Promote and encourage informed decision making leading to improved quality of life,  
increased independence, productivity, and community inclusion

. . .

Increase community capacity and systems for greater independence and integration across  
the lifespan

. . .

Expand tenets of self-determination and increase opportunities to advocate and  
participate in policymaking and leadership roles

## How to Contact Us

More information about the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities can be found online at [dhhs.ne.gov/ddcouncil](https://dhhs.ne.gov/ddcouncil) or by contacting our office at 402-471-2330 or TDD 800-833-7352.