



5 YR Plan 2021-2026 Draft Stage 4

Public surveys, listening sessions, personal interviews, and other input from individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (ID/DD), their families, and other stakeholders directed a majority of the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities 2021-2026 State Plan. Also considered in the plan development, was the Council's overall focus to build capacity for community inclusion, advocacy, and systemic change that improves the lived experiences of all people with disabilities and their families. The Council will work in the following two goal areas over the next five years to meet this focus:

Goal 1: Quality of Life

Goal 2: Advocacy and Training

Unserved and Underserved Communities

The Council has identified groups who face additional obstacles beyond those faced by individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in general. Therefore, embedded in all of the NHCDD goal areas is a commitment to historically unserved and underserved populations including but not limited to:

Individuals with ID/DD and their families who

- are from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, including immigrants and refugees
- express themselves using a language other than English
- express themselves using sign language
- do not use their voice to communicate
- have intensive support needs
- identify as LGBTQ+
- are aging (60 years and older)

- live in a rural community

2021-2026 NH Council on Developmental Disabilities State Plan

Goal 1: Quality of Life

The NHCDD will work to address the barriers to the daily life of all diverse individuals with ID/DD, family members, and caregivers to improve the lived experiences of people with ID/DD.

Objective 1: The Council in collaboration with disability, aging and other organizations will support the development or improvement of a minimum of 12 community-based programs, policies or practices that promote inclusion of all people with ID/DD in all aspects of community life.

1. By 2026 the NHCDD will work to build capacity that supports community based living for all individuals with ID/DD by reducing barriers to housing, transportation, and other infrastructure through identifying and supporting initiatives that address obstacles faced by geographically diverse communities.
2. By 2026 the number of individuals with ID/DD who are employed will be increased, with a focus on the following skill development areas: competitive employment, inclusive supported employment, internships, pathways to promotion, employment sustainability, work-based learning opportunities, and inclusive post-secondary education.
3. By 2026 the NHCDD will work to decrease barriers to community life for all individuals with ID/DD in the areas of social integration, meaningful relationships, sexual health, inclusive equity-based education, and acceptance of differences.

Objective 2: The NHCDD will collaborate with the New Hampshire development disabilities network to increase access to quality services in the home and community for all individuals with ID/DD, families, and caregivers.

1. By 2026 the NHCDD will work to increase support through education and training to direct support providers who assist all individuals who experience ID/DD, including Paraprofessionals, Direct Support Professionals, Caregivers, and families.
2. By 2026 the NHCDD will work to increase the number of training, education, and outreach initiatives that focus on making community living person-centered in ways that support choice and responsibility in the areas of health and wellness.

Goal 2: Civic Engagement and Advocacy

The NHCDD will work to strengthen the civic engagement and advocacy of and by all diverse individuals with ID/DD and family members.

Objective 1: The NHCDD will work to increase the number of self-advocates and leaders with ID/DD by strengthening self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with ID/DD, supporting and expanding opportunities for development of leadership skills, providing opportunities for self-advocate peer training and participation in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership organizations.

Objective 2: The NHCDD will work to build stronger relationships with policy makers by engaging in legislative and administrative education. The Council will provide training and information in best and promising practices to inform policies that have a positive impact on the lives of all individuals with ID/DD and their families across the lifespan.

Objective 3: The NHCDD will collaborate with the New Hampshire developmental disabilities network to reduce barriers that all individuals with ID/DD face regarding access to information and education throughout the life span. The NHCDD will use and support language that is accessible via technology, plain language, interpreters, and represent cultural and linguistic competence.

Objective 4: The NHCDD will work to decrease disparities that exist for all students of color who experience ID/DD in accessing equitable education. The NHCDD will support increased awareness and initiatives to reduce barriers.