



Governor's Council on
Developmental Disabilities
ARKANSAS

Governor's Council on
Developmental Disabilities Arkansas
2022-2026
DRAFT State Plan Goals and Objectives

(For the period October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2026)

Comment:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCDDARPLAN>

Alternate format, Marshallese language and Spanish language versions of this plan are available upon request.

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Background

What Is the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

The Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities Arkansas (the Council) serves as the State of Arkansas’ council on developmental disabilities (DD). Under federal law, Public Law 106–402, each state is authorized to establish a DD Council, which receives funds to carry out initiatives for systems-change, capacity building, and advocacy. Through these activities, the Council promotes the inclusion, integration, independence and productivity of people with disabilities in community life.

What Are State Plans?

All DD Councils are required to develop five-year State Plans to enable them to effectively fulfill their mission. While the State Plan provides the “framework” for each Council’s work, it does not include all activities undertaken by the Council or its staff. As required by federal law, the plan primarily focuses on goals and objectives to which federal resources will be dedicated over the five-year period. State Plans are reviewed and updated annually, and progress toward goals and objectives is reported each year for the previous federal fiscal year (FFY).

The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act identifies nine “Areas of Emphasis” that DD Councils can address in their State Plans according to the needs of the state, input from individuals with disabilities, and the status of service delivery systems. DD Councils are not required to address all nine areas, and the only required area of emphasis is Quality Assurance to capture certain self-advocacy activities. The nine areas of emphasis are:

- Child Care
- Education/Early Intervention
- Employment
- Formal/Informal Community Supports
- Health
- Housing
- Quality Assurance
- Recreation
- Transportation

The DD Act also identifies strategies that DD Councils can utilize to address the areas of emphasis. These strategies include the following: outreach, training, provision of technical assistance, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaboration and coordination, coordination with related councils/committees/programs, eliminating barriers to service and systems design/redesign, building coalitions and citizen participation, informing policymakers, and demonstration of new approaches to services and supports.

How Are State Plans Developed?

The Council develops goals and objectives that it believes will most effectively address priorities identified by various stakeholders, while considering limited resources and the need to allow for flexibility in an ever-changing environment. The Council considered four primary factors when drafting these goals and objectives is provided below:

- 1) Priority issues identified by (a) the public via focus groups, telephone interviews and an online survey; (b) Council members via state plan development committee meetings; (c) an analysis of relevant data; and (d) activities that are required per the DD Act.
- 2) Purpose of Developmental Disability Councils per the DD Act. According to the DD Act, the purpose of Developmental Disability Councils is to *“Engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities; ...enable people with developmental disabilities to be self-determined, independent, productive, integrated and included in all facets of community life.”*
- 3) Feasibility based on (a) agency resources, (b) staff expertise, and (c) input from external stakeholders including relevant state agencies, DD Councils in other states, federal technical assistance staff, and other key stakeholders.
- 4) Flexibility to adapt its strategy as new issues emerge, new information becomes available, or agency resources change.

Consistent with federal requirements, the Council’s draft FFY 2022-2026 State Plan goals and objectives are being released for a 45-day public comment period. Comments will be considered by the Council, at which time members will determine if any changes should be made to the FFY 2022-2026 draft goals and objectives. The Council will approve the 5-Year State Plan and submit the plan to the federal Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for approval by August 15, 2021. The approved plan will be effective October 1, 2021.

Draft Goals and Objectives

The Council seeks public comments on the following draft goals and objectives selected for its FFYs 2022-2026 State Plan.

DRAFT GOAL 1 (AREA OF EMPHASIS: QUALITY ASSURANCE/ADVOCACY): People with developmental disabilities and their families will be active in advocacy activities that improve their lives, the lives of others and the service system.

DRAFT ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE 1: Each year of the five-year plan, the Council will provide support to strengthen statewide self-advocacy organizations by increasing activity and participation by self-advocates.

DRAFT ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE 2 (DD NETWORK COLLABORATION): The Council will increase leadership training for self-advocates and their families, in collaboration with Disability Rights Arkansas and Partners for Inclusive Communities, by providing technical assistance and administrative support.

DRAFT ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE 3: Each year of the five-year state plan, the Council will increase opportunities for self-advocates who are leaders to train other self-advocates for leadership and increase opportunities for participation in cross-disability, culturally diverse organizations, activities and/or events.

DRAFT GOAL 2 (AREA OF EMPHASIS: COMMUNITY SUPPORTS): People with developmental disabilities and their families will have improved access to community support and services.

DRAFT COMMUNITY SUPPORTS OBJECTIVE 1: The Council will provide support to community partners to strengthen access to information, training and education for Arkansans with developmental disabilities and their families about available programs and services within the State and about emergent issues affecting the Arkansas IDD community; provide additional training as needed.

DRAFT COMMUNITY SUPPORTS OBJECTIVE 2 (TARGETED DISPARITY): To address targeted disparity, the Council will work with partners across the state to reduce barriers when accessing information and services for Marshallese people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), families, and community leaders.

DRAFT COMMUNITY SUPPORTS OBJECTIVE 3: The Council will collaborate with community partners to identify and act on strategies to reduce barriers when accessing supports and services for Arkansans with IDD who have limited English proficiency (non-English speaking, English as a Second Language, and those with other communication needs).

DRAFT GOAL 3 (AREA OF EMPHASIS: EMPLOYMENT): The Council will collaborate with the Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entities (PASSEs), state agencies, and/or community programs to improve competitive, integrated employment of Arkansans with developmental disabilities.

DRAFT EMPLOYMENT OBJECTIVE 1: The Council will promote participation of people with IDD in Employment First activities and similar community programs to advocate for legislative and policy changes that lead to an increase in competitive, integrated employment.

DRAFT EMPLOYMENT OBJECTIVE 2: The Council will help increase the capacity of service providers and educate employers to increase opportunities for competitive, integrated employment of Arkansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).