

RIDDC FIVE YEAR PLAN

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Leadership

By 2026, The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) will develop and support more leaders through training and support so that people with developmental disabilities, their families, and stakeholders can advocate for themselves and others, increase self-determination, community leadership roles and citizenship. We will collaborate with individuals, community organizations, self-advocacy organizations, Network Partners, State Agencies, and other stakeholders to implement and expand the tenets of self determination, increase the ability and opportunity for people to advocate for themselves and others, and increase the number of individuals who meaningfully participate in policymaking and leadership roles each year of the plan.

Objective 1.1: By 2026, an increased number of people with developmental disabilities will take on a leadership role through training, organization, and opportunities so they can advocate for themselves and others. *This is the mandatory self advocacy objective.

Objective 1.2: By 2026, an increased number of family members of people with developmental disabilities will take on a leadership role through training, organization, and opportunities so they can advocate for policy and culture changes in Rhode Island.

Objective 1.3: By 2026, increased relationships with people who do not speak English as a primary language and are underrepresented in the advocacy field will build and use leadership skills so they can advocate for and receive services and fully participate in the community. *This is the mandatory targeted disparity objective.

Goal 2: Systems Change

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council identified six systemic issues important to people with developmental disabilities and their families and will promote systems change on these issues so that quality of life is improved. These six areas are Person Directed Planning, Trauma Informed Care, Employment, Housing, Voting, and Supported Decision Making.

Objective 2.1: By 2026 the Council will build and support a person-directed approach to life and services so that self-determination, individualized funding and supports and control of funding and support improve the quality of life.

Objective 2.2: By 2026, an increase in knowledge about and use of Trauma Informed Practices will lead to improved quality of life, inclusion, and acceptance of people with developmental disabilities in the community.

Objective 2.3: By 2026, people with developmental disabilities will have increased employment opportunities in the community resulting in quality of life and fiscal improvement.

Objective 2.4: By 2026, housing options in the community will be increased so that people with developmental disabilities can live with who they want and decide how they want to live.

Objective 2.5: By 2026, the Rhode Island DD Network will increase knowledge about and participation in voting and advocacy efforts for access so that people with developmental disabilities can experience their fundamental right to vote.

*This is a new DD Network Objective.

Objective 2.6: By 2026 there will be an increase in the use of Supported Decision Making to ensure that people with developmental disabilities direct their decisions with assistance when requested. *This is a continuing DD Network Objective.

Goal 3: Policy Change

The Council will increase knowledge about federal, state, and local policies affecting people with developmental disability and their families and will increase knowledge, attitude changes and understanding about people with developmental disabilities through education efforts with policymakers and community organizations so that quality of life for people with developmental disabilities is improved.

Objective 3.1: Increase the knowledge and awareness of people with developmental disabilities, family members, stakeholders, and the community by monitoring and informing about state and federal legislation and policy. Increase the knowledge and awareness of legislators and policy makers by educating and informing them of issues as necessary.

Objective 3.2: By 2026, increased knowledge and awareness about the positive impacts by people with developmental disabilities in the community will be provided to help shift attitudes and support policy changes to address issues and barriers to ensure people with developmental disabilities are full community members.

Objective 3.3: The Council will increase its knowledge about an emerging or unforeseen issue affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families and take action if necessary to address the identified priority.