

DRAFT RIDDC FIVE YEAR PLAN

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Self Determination, Empowerment, Leadership

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) will identify, support, and empower more leaders through trainings, support, and opportunities to affect policy. Individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and advocates will have to knowledge, support, and opportunity to advocate for themselves and others, increase self-determination, and join community leadership roles. We will collaborate with individuals, community organizations, self-advocacy organizations, Network Partners, State Agencies, and other stakeholders to implement and expand the ability and opportunity for people to advocate for themselves and others and increase the number of individuals who meaningfully participate in policymaking, peer support, and leadership roles, including sitting on policy workgroups and non-government boards and commissions, as well as educating state and federal legislators each year of the plan.

Objective 1.1: By 2031, an increased number of people with developmental disabilities, including those who do not speak English as a first language, who will take on a leadership role through training, organization, and policy and community opportunities so they can advocate for themselves and others. *This is the mandatory self advocacy objective and includes a statewide cross disability coalition.

Objective 1.2: By 2031, an increased number of family members of people with developmental disabilities, including those who do not speak English as a first language, who will take on a leadership role through training, organization, and policy and community opportunities so they can advocate for themselves and others.

Goal 2: System Transformation and Capacity Building

The Council will inform and act to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families have access to their communities, services, supports, resources, rights, and privileges.

There are four broad categories that encompass a multitude of activities.

Objective 2.1: By 2031 the Council will increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to live independently and be part of their communities, with a focus on housing, transportation, and community access.

Objective 2.2: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities will have increased economic opportunities to make, save, and utilize fiscal instruments and opportunities to better their lives, including self and customized employment.

Objective 2.3: By 2031, the Rhode Island DD Network will increase knowledge about and participation of people with developmental disabilities in civil rights, including the right to self determination, voting, marriage, and free speech. *This is a DD Network Objective.

Objective 2.4: By 2031, the Council will increase the knowledge of, planning for, and access to formal and informal community supports through all phases of life for people with developmental disabilities and family members.

Goal 3: Civic Engagement and Community Outreach

The Council will research, compile, and disseminate information and publish materials to educate: people with disabilities and their families about federal, state, and local policies affecting them; policy makers and legislators about issues that affect people with disabilities, and; the people of Rhode Island and the nation about the acts, gifts, and needs of Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities. These actions will increase knowledge, attitude changes and understanding about people with developmental disabilities through education efforts with policymakers, community organizations, and others to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3.1: By 2031, 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 2031, increase knowledge and awareness about the positive impacts by people with developmental disabilities in the community as well as the work of the Council. This awareness and outreach 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: During the course of the five year plan, 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.