

Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Nebraska Planning 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.

- Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – federal agency responsible for oversight.
- Funded in every State and Territory of the United States – represents a Federal-State partnership in developing futures for and with people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Governor appoints twenty-four State Council members for three year term – more than 60% of members being people with developmental disabilities or family members.

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

What We Do

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

Nebraska State Council

The following
goals were
selected as
priority goals
for the next
five years –
2017 - 2021:

Improve
transition across
the lifespan
...

Improve
advocacy and
self-
determination
through
leadership
development
and active
participation
...

Influence
systems change
to increase
employment
opportunities
...

Increase
community
inclusion
through respite
care services
and inclusive
childcare

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities:

- Awards funding to various agencies, organizations and other entities to address gaps and barriers in the system;
- Identifies legislation introduced and educates policymakers on the impact of these bills on persons with developmental disabilities;
- Presents testimony at relevant hearings and follows applicable regulation development;
- Serves on committees to ensure discussions include needs of persons with developmental disabilities;
- Funds six Regional Councils to meet the State Council's goals at local levels.

Regional Councils

The state is divided into six geographical areas called regions, each having a voluntary regional council. Membership on the Regional Councils is open to any interested person living in the region, including persons with disabilities, family members, agency representatives, service providers, and advocates. The majority of the councils meet monthly to handle needed business. Members may be asked to serve on State Council committees for subaward application reviews and legislative reviews.

Each Regional Council receives funds from the State Council for use in their areas to support local activities similar to those of the State Council. These include developmental disability public education/awareness efforts; trainings for individuals, families, and service providers; and support to attend relevant conferences or workshops.

How to Contact Us

More information about the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities can be found online at dhhs.ne.gov/ddplanning or by contacting our office at 402-471-2330.