

Five Year Plan for the WGCDD

Goals and Objectives for
October 2027 - September 2031

Executive Summary

Open for Public Comment
Open March 20, 2026 to close May 04, 2026

Link to view and comment WCCDD's next Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfh9rh_zfUwxFEjCxuvYEGW4sNh3tYDO6BAwTB2tf93cu1OJQ/viewform?usp=header

Introduction:

The Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (WGCDD) is a Governor appointed body of people with developmental disabilities, family members and professionals who work together to promote full inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities in community life.

The member breakdown consists of 27 people who are from all regions of the state. There are 9 people w/DD, 9 family members and 9 state and local agencies.

Purpose: The Council's purpose is to assure individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access, to technology, needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion.

The Council's Mission further states, the WGCDD seeks and advocates for activities which promote self-sufficiency, community involvement and educational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the Wyoming Community.

WGCDD's Vision: The Council envisions a world in which the choices for people with developmental disabilities are not limited by others, in which persons with disabilities have choices about all aspects of their lives, in which their choices are respected and supported; a world without limits.

Key Beliefs: The Council leads by developing new concepts and programs for people with developmental disabilities. We succeed through working together with family, friends, organizations, communities and public policymakers.

We…

- believe all people have value and ability
- believe everyone can make a contribution
- believe there is dignity in taking risks and value in making mistakes
- believe individuals are free to live, work, learn and play in society
- believe preconceptions limits rights, choices and abilities

We…

- challenge one another to break down the barriers that prevent inclusion
- challenge one another to meet the person, not just the disability
- challenge one another to support people with disabilities' choices without imposing our biases

The Council engages in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that contribute to a coordinated, individual and family centered/directed, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance which enables individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination and be independent.

The Council utilizes strategies such as training, educating policy makers and communities, coalition development, barrier elimination, and demonstration of new approaches to services. These strategies are incorporated into the Five-Year-Plan, which is based on a comprehensive review and analysis of the services, supports, and assistance available to individuals with developmental disabilities within the state.

Proposed Five-Year-Plan

The Developmental Disabilities Council within each state is required to submit a Five-Year-Plan to the Administration on Community Living outlining the intended use of federal funds.

To aid the development, information was collected from September of 2024 to December of 2025 using the following means:

- Surveys,
- Listening sessions,
- Anecdotal stories,

- Information and referrals,
- Recognizing and monitoring state/national trends,
- Recognizing best practices being used by other collaborative groups/projects,
- Social Media information/discussions, and
- Recognizing barriers.

These data collection processes helped to determine the goals and objectives based around Areas of Emphasis and the Council's Mission to Seek, Educate, Change.

The Areas of Emphasis are:

- Health
- Community Supports
- Housing
- Education and Early Intervention
- Quality Assurance
- Recreation
- Employment
- Transportation
- Child Care

The Council also added Advocacy/Leadership and Assistive Technology in its surveys and requests for feedback/public input.

The Council acknowledges the significant interest in transportation and housing needs during the survey process. While direct funding or in-house project development for these extensive topics is not feasible due to limits in the program's budget, the Council can still support these areas. This support will be provided by actively participating in conversations and disseminating information and materials for related localized or broader initiatives led by other agencies or groups.

Individual and Family Advocacy is: actively defending rights, promoting inclusion, and securing necessary supports to ensure a high quality of life. It empowers self-advocates to make their own decisions while providing families with tools to navigate services, reduce isolation, and fight for equity.

Goal # 1

Individual/Family Advocacy: By 2031, an increased number of people with developmental disabilities and their families are able to access services, educate on policies, communicate their needs, build relationships, and become leaders within their communities.

Objectives

Obj. 1: Annually, the Council will support at least one self-advocacy organization led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will strengthen self-advocacy and leadership development by supporting leadership training, peer mentoring, and support the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability leadership coalitions with a wide range of backgrounds and lived-experiences.

Obj 2: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities will have an increased knowledge of their civil rights so they are able to communicate their needs and have better access to community services.

Obj. 3: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities and their families will have an increased understanding of exploitation identification and prevention, so that they have enhanced personal safety.

Systems change is defined as involving fundamental shifts in policies, procedures, and societal attitudes to create equitable access, independence, and community inclusion. It moves from segregated, service-driven models to person-centered, community-based support, aiming to remove barriers in employment, housing, and healthcare.

Goal #2

Systems Change: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and others will have an increased engagement in systems change efforts resulting in greater independence, productivity, and inclusion within their communities.

Objectives

Obj. 1: Annually, the Council will increase advocacy and systems change efforts that improve services and supports and remove barriers for people with developmental disabilities.

Obj. 2: By 2031, The Council will increase engagement of people with developmental disabilities and their family members on guardianship issues and build support for change to existing Wyoming guardianship statutes.

Capacity Building for people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their communities is the process of strengthening skills, resources, and systems to promote self-determination, independence, and inclusion. It shifts from a deficit-based model to a strengths-based approach, empowering individuals and communities to identify needs, access support, and actively participate in society.

Goal #3

Capacity Building: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and others will be provided the tools necessary to develop their own skills, independence, safety, and growth in the community.

Objectives

Obj. 1: By 2031, people with developmental disabilities and their families will have increased inclusive emergency preparedness, response, and recovery through accessible information, coordinated systems, and inclusive planning.

Obj. 2: Annually, the Council will increase access to information and engage in efforts to expand opportunities for competitive-integrated employment and economic participation.

Obj. 3: By 2031, the Council will provide the tools necessary for people with developmental disabilities and their families to have enhanced independence in their community.

Obj. 4: If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with developmental disabilities impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster.

Key Activities

To complete these Goals and Objectives, the Council uses Key Activities with reportable outcomes and outputs. Some of the Key Activities that could be used include, but are not limited to:

- Training and information disseminations
- Events such as the Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Council, the March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Luncheon, The Artist's Gala, etc.,
- WYABLE
- Bright Idea Grants
- In House Projects on topics such as Emergency Preparedness, Mental Health, Guardianship, Employment, Transition, Leadership and Advocacy, etc.
- Collaborative projects
- Monitoring State and Federal Legislation
- Information and Referrals
- Supporting DD Advocacy Groups

Evaluation/Review

Each Five-Year-Plan is reviewed, evaluated and updated annually by the Council. An Annual Program Performance Report is submitted indicating Council activities and progress made toward each identified Goal.

These Goals, Objectives and Activities will be addressed during the five year period, October 1, 2027 through September 30, 2031.

The Council is aware people with developmental disabilities and their families' needs may change over the five year period outlined here. The Council will change or update objectives and activities to respond to these needs.

The established Goals were sent out for public comment for 45 days from March 20, 2026 to May 04, 2026.

Funding

The WGCDD is funded through a formula grant authorized under Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of RIghts Act of 2000.

The Council receives the funds from the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services in the form of a basic grant calculated on a population formula and with a required match. Wyoming is a minimum allotment state and on average receives $527,000.00 in federal funding with a 25% state match that averages $131,000.00.

If you have questions, please send them to Brittany Hankinson-McGovern, WGCDD Executive Director, brittan.mcgovern@wyo.gov - 307-777-7332 or through the general email wgcdd.wyo.gov or by contacting the Council office at 307-777-7230.

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