

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Comments Sought on Five Year State Plan Goals and Objectives for the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting comments from people with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, advocates, stakeholders, and the public on its five-year state plan goals and objectives for 2017-2021.

The plan includes four goals recommending increased access to information, services, and supports, increased employment opportunities, increased access to health care services, and an increase in qualified workforce to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

People can view the proposed goals and objectives online at www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/plan.shtml. The council will accept comments on the proposed goals and objectives through May 31, 2016, at 5 p.m. Central Time.

Individuals can submit comments by emailing nsawicki@nd.gov, or calling 701-328-4605, Relay North Dakota TTY 800-366-6888 or 711, or faxing 701-328-8969.

People can also mail comments to the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities (NDSCDD), Attn: NaTasha Sawicki, 919 S. Seventh St., Suite 503, Bismarck, N.D., 58504.

The proposed goals and objectives were drafted by the 20-member council, which advocates for policy changes that promote choice, independence, productivity, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. The council will review all comments received during the 45-day comment period and consider them as possible additions to the state plan. The plan will be submitted to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for approval by Aug. 15, 2016.

The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities is required to create a five-year strategic state plan in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to address the availability of services, supports, and other assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the state. The plan also includes activities that demonstrate new ideas for enhancing people's lives through training, community education, and support.

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