



Be Legendary.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

# Annual Celebration

January 30, 2026

# Agenda

About Us

Meet the Team

- Impact Areas - Education, Advocacy, and Grants
- Current Work
- Upcoming Needs Assessment

How to Get Connected

# About Us

Councils were created under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) to engage in capacity building, systems change and advocacy work in every state and territory.

Our Council includes 23-members appointed by the Governor. The DD Act requires that 60% of Council members are people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers.

## Impact Areas:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Grant Making

## Key Partners:

### North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD)

- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

### North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project

- Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Agency

The purpose of the Council is to promote activities that are consistent with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act . These include recognizing, supporting, and encouraging the competencies, capabilities, and personal goals of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Any assistance to such individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of the individual. (Adopted by the Council December 8, 2022).

Advocacy, capacity building and systemic change that contribute to a coordinated consumer-and-family-centered, consumer-and-family- directed comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and families.

# Meet the Team!



Julie Horntvedt  
Executive Director



Trevor Vannett  
Council Chair



Kyle Erickson  
Advocacy  
Coordinator



Kasi Kautz  
Director of Innovative  
Programs

# Education

The Council advanced its commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for North Dakotans with developmental disabilities through a coordinated set of initiatives designed to build skills, expand access, and deepen community partnerships. This year, the Council delivered interview-skills training that equipped students and job seekers with practical tools for self-advocacy and career readiness. In addition, the Council supported inclusive education programs that promote full participation in school communities, ensuring that students with disabilities have the resources and environments they need to thrive.

**Successes:** Hired a new staff; development of inclusive education curriculum, IDEA celebration video, membership on ND CEC, Launch My Life website, job interview skills training, support of Bismark State College's Peer Mentoring Program. Partnerships with the Little Learners Playlab, Early Learners Coalition, Daily Living Skills training with Life Education Students.

**Future Plans:** Increasing peer to peer programs, creation of new materials, partnership expansion, hosting a peer-to-peer conference (February 2026).

# Impact Areas: Advocacy



**Kyle Erickson**  
Advocacy Coordinator



# Advocacy

The Council's Advocacy Committee leads our work with educating, advising, and informing lawmakers around issues of importance for people with IDD. The Advocacy Committee guides our legislative process in support of the IDD community in a manner that aligns with the Council's mission, vision, and values.

**In 2025, the Council:**

- Created an Action Steps Sheet (February, 2025)
- 8 Social Media posts for NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month)
- Autism Position Statement (October, 2025)
- 11 Social Media Posts for Why Medicaid Matters to Me:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-Ow4ynlQKrcPG-XelvvhekX1vG4OgDf-?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-Ow4ynlQKrcPG-XelvvhekX1vG4OgDf-?usp=drive_link)
- HB1165 Veto Letter (April, 2025)

# Advocacy

The Council's Advocacy Staff continues to travel the state and provide education and training to advocates in their local community. We had meetings in 10 communities in 2025.

\* indicates a new community since 2024)

## Communities Served:

- Jamestown-Together We Stand
- Fargo-Fargo Friends Moving Forward
- Minot-Hands for Change
- Williston
- Bowman
- Grand Forks
- Grafton
- Dickinson\*
- Devils Lake \*
- Harvey\*

# Grant Making

The Council leads the distribution of funding each year for projects related to the five year state plan. These projects fund advocacy, systems change and capacity building activities for both Council-led projects and programs and projects developed by community partners.

**Successes:** Provided core funding and mini grants for projects under our state plan goals including self-advocacy, targeted health disparities, integrated housing, employment, education, new/innovative projects, use of technology, bridging aging and disability, and more.

**Future Plans:** The Council is working on it's next 5-year plan and will submit the final product in August, 2026.

# 2025 Core Funding Projects

- **Advocacy Training:** Partners in Policymaking. We graduated a class of 6 people.
- **Self Advocacy-Health Conference:** We hosted a conference in Bismarck with over 200 attendees (March 24, 2025)
- **Leadership and Training Grant:** We supported 1 individual/family to attend a conference and 10 families to attend the ND Vision Services Family Weekend in person and 1 virtually.
- **Aging-Disability Grant:** Gathered a state team of 14 members. More have joined since we began the work. The work focuses on creation of disability-aging roadmaps to navigate services. So far, 7 [roadmaps are complete](#). 15 is the goal.
- **Behavioral Health:** Executive Functioning Skills training groups. 4-5 Women per group. 1 specialist clinician facilitator per group. 3 in person groups and 1 virtual group. 10 weeks of training, 1 hour per week.
- **Education:** provided Keynote speakers at the North Dakota Association of Community Providers Conference and supported the 101 Pathways to Partnership Conference (Pathfinders) which had 101 youth, parents, and professionals attend to learn about Education.
- **FASD:** created, recorded, and disseminated a 12-part module series about various topics concerning Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- **Childcare:** Funded an Inclusive Summer skills and daytime support training program through Fraser, ND in Fargo for 7 individuals ages 12+
- **Higher Education:** Supported the Bismarck State College Peer Mentoring Program to include 20 students receiving services and 8 peer mentors.

# Communications

**Website:** [News page](#) for meetings, news, and updates

**Open Meetings:** [Secretary of State ND](#)

**Social Media:** You can find us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [Youtube](#)

**Contacting Staff:** E-mail is the best way to connect with staff. Council staff also have office phones.

- **Office Phone:** Julie 701-328-4847. Kasi: 701-328-4454.
- **Mail to:** ND DD Council, 800 E. Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501
- **Emails:** Julie: [jhorntvedt@nd.gov](mailto:jhorntvedt@nd.gov), Kasi: [kkautz@nd.gov](mailto:kkautz@nd.gov), Kyle: [kyle.erickson.1@minotstateu.edu](mailto:kyle.erickson.1@minotstateu.edu)

# Where We Have Been

- Onboarded 5 new Council members
- Said goodbye to 1 staff: Chaz, and Welcomed 2 new staff
- Completed and submitted our Annual Work Plan and PPR (Annual Report)
- Secured appointments/membership on new boards/commissions: Cross Disability Advisory Council, ND CEC, Bismarck Transit Board, Uspire ND, Olmstead Commission
- Continued work with our DD Act Partners: ND Protection and Advocacy and North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD).

# Intended Uses of our Work

- Consistency: Provide continuity in the heart of the Council across membership and staff changes
- Alignment: Ensure Council decision making and resource allocation reflects our values
- Strategic Planning: Guide our needs assessment, state plan development and program evaluation plan to align with the meaningful life framework
- Communications: Share our work as part of the disability community with partner organizations, policy makers, our funders and other stakeholders
- Transparency: Hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve

# Person-Centered Values in Action

- **Purpose (Productivity):** We value the contributions of all individuals (not dependent on economic or intellectual capital).
- **Inclusion:** We fully take part in learning, living, working, and other community activities of our choice.
- **Integration:** We have the right to the same opportunities, services, and community resources as other people. This includes access to services as well as access to supported education, employment, healthcare and community life.
- **Belonging:** We value human connection and honor people's identities and lived experiences. We all have the right to feel safe at home, at school, at work and in community.
- **Self-determination (Independence):** We believe that everyone has the right to design their own vision of a meaningful life of their choice.



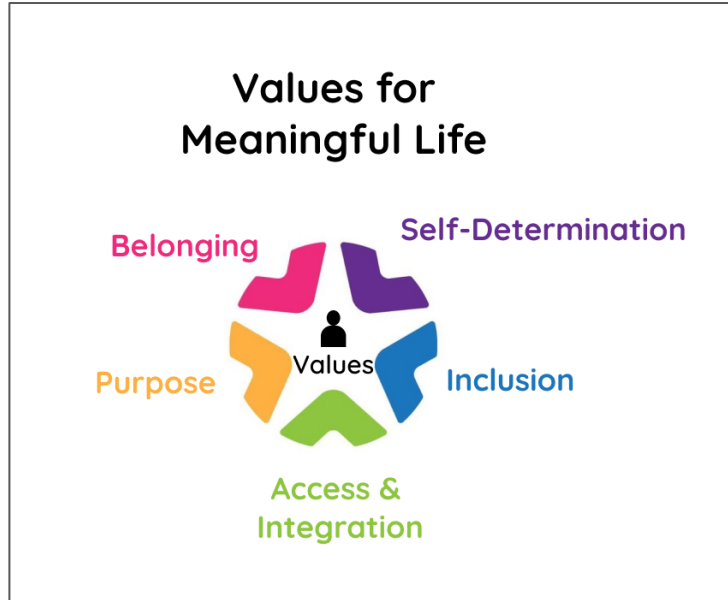
# Community Values in Action

**Our work is with and for the community we serve. No one person or organization can do this work alone and we seek to bridge communities and break down silos.**

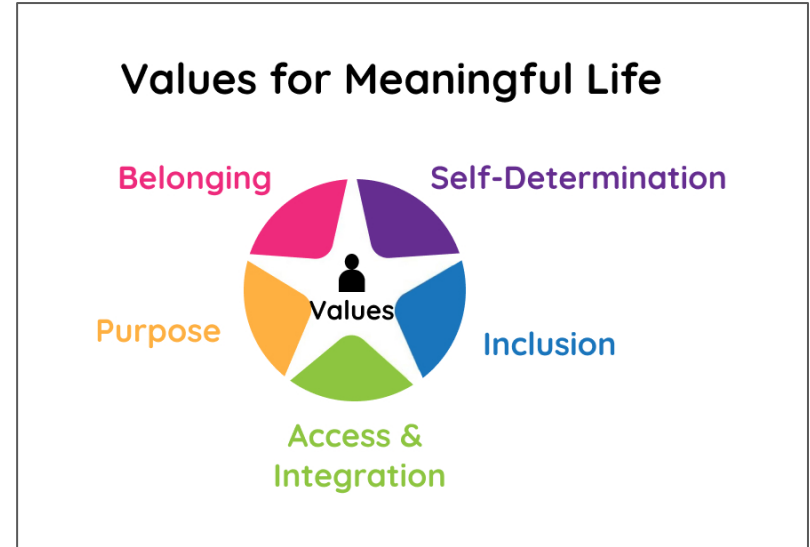
- **Legacy:** We believe that at each step of our individual paths, we learn more from those who went before us and have more to teach those who follow behind us.
- **Collective:** We bring together capable and powerful community members to create long term systems change through their lived experience.
- **Collaborative:** We work in partnership and we seek to lead, partner, amplify or support projects based on our community's needs.
- **Forward-thinking:** Together, we advance disability justice efforts with and for people with IDD.

# Person-Centered Values

1.

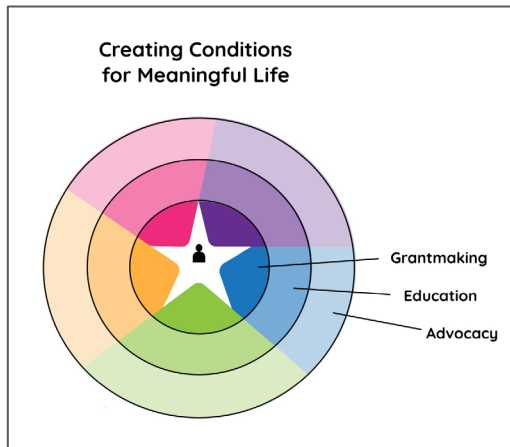


2.

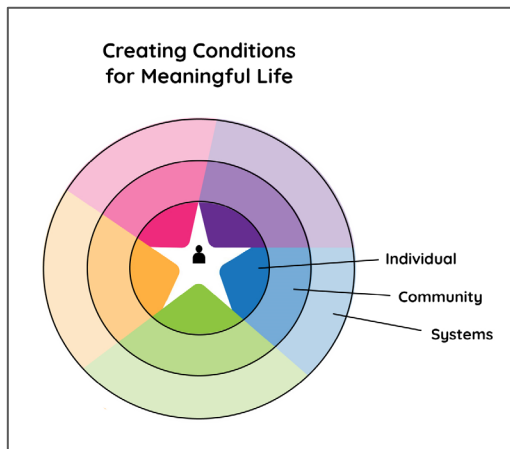


# Creating Conditions for Change

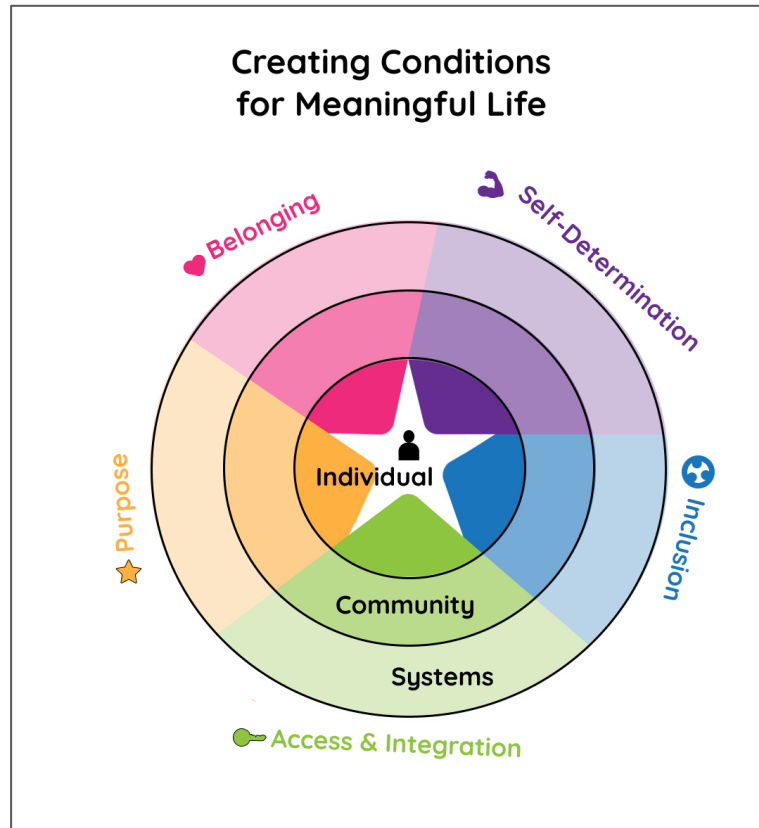
1.



2.



3.





# Linking Our Values to Our Work

## Impact Areas:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Grant Making



Purpose



Inclusion



Self-Determination



Belonging



Access & Integration



# What We Are Working Towards

1.

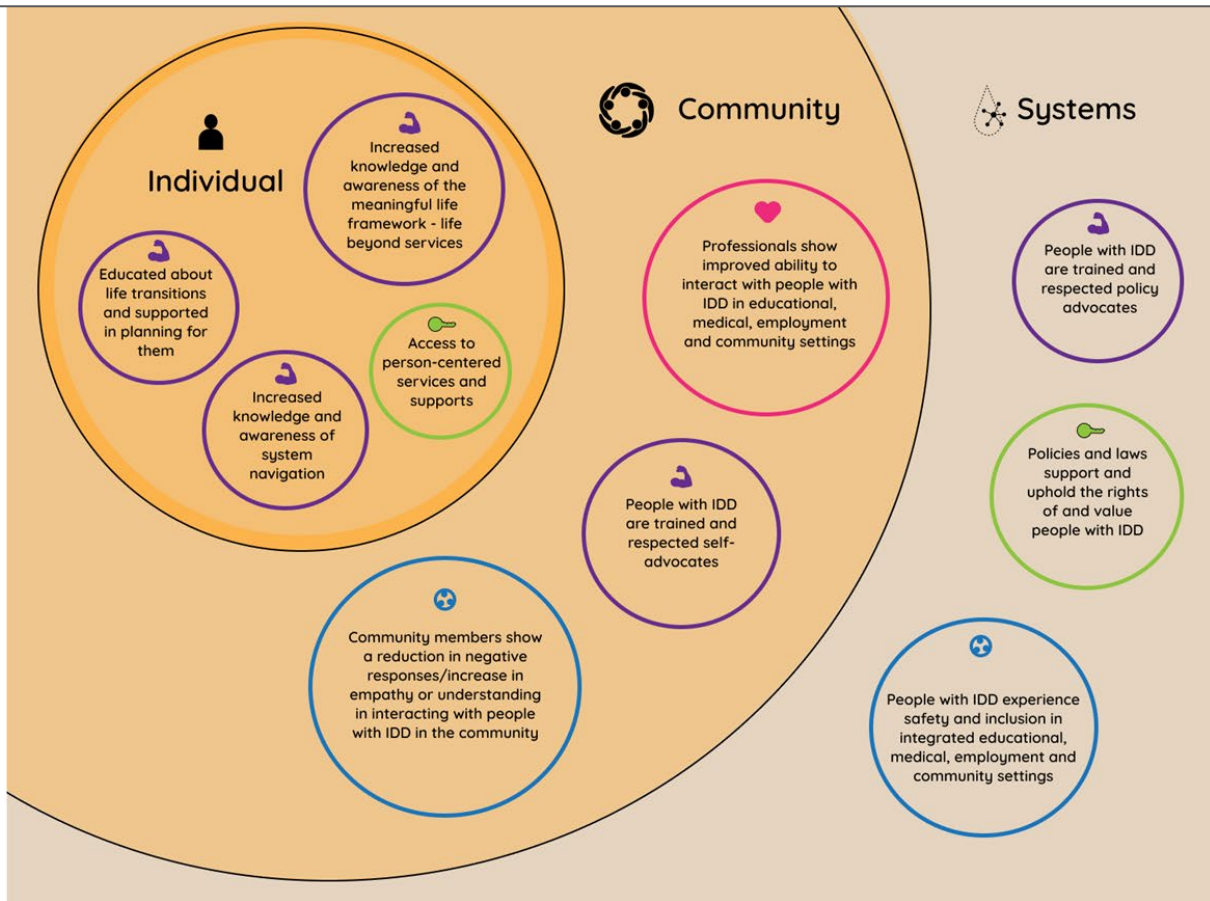
## What We're Working Towards

### Our Vision

People with I/DD experience their own vision of a meaningful life of freedom, choice, love, purpose and joy and are valued for the contributions they bring to our communities.

### Our Values

-  Inclusion
-  Purpose
-  Belonging
-  Access & Integration
-  Self-Determination





# What We Are Working Towards

2.

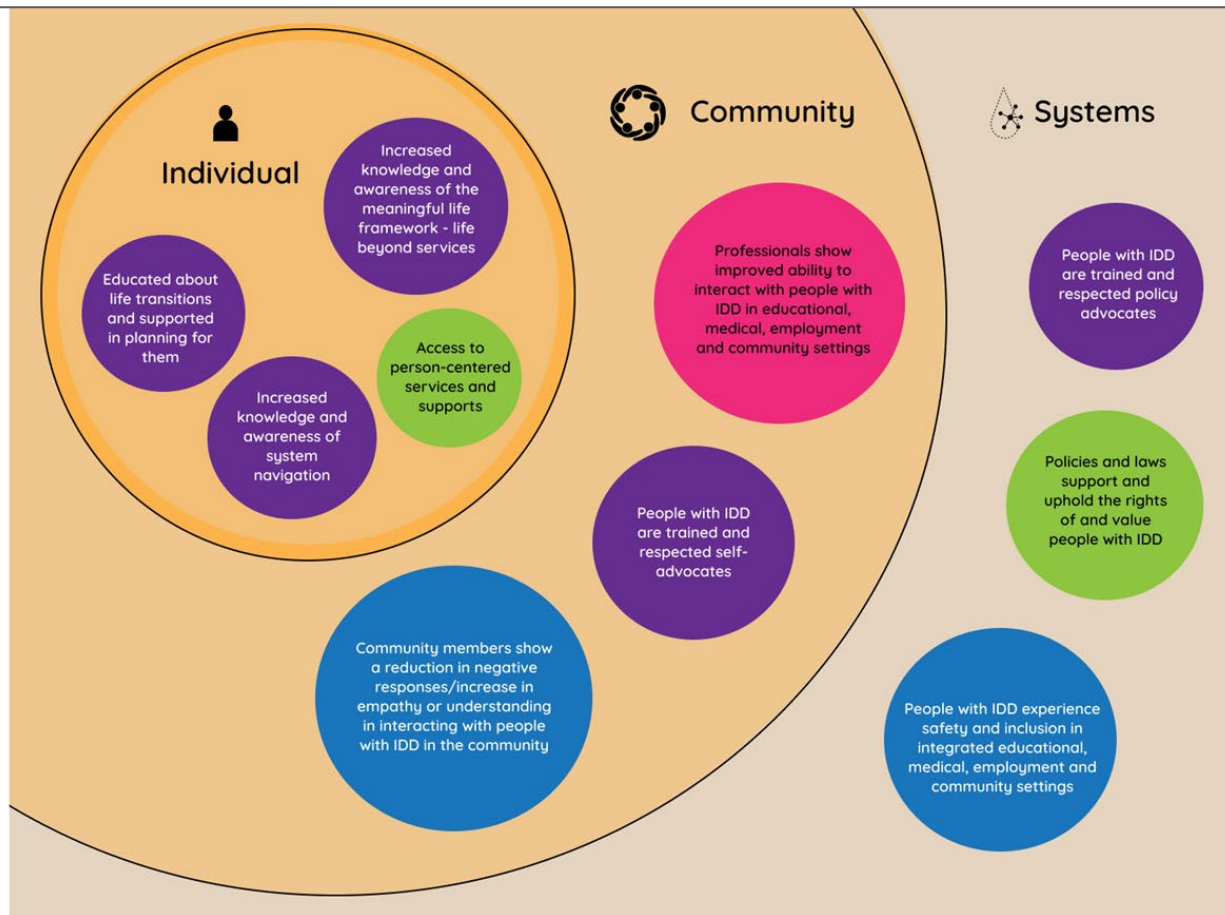
## What We're Working Towards

### Our Vision

People with I/DD experience their own vision of a meaningful life of freedom, choice, love, purpose and joy and are valued for the contributions they bring to our communities.

### Our Values

-  Inclusion
-  Purpose
-  Belonging
-  Access & Integration
-  Self-Determination





# Feedback Prompts

- What is exciting or interesting to you about this information?
- Which pieces feel unfamiliar or need more context?
- Which pieces feel difficult or impossible?
- Do you see places where you feel connected to the Council's mission, vision, values and work?
- Do you see places in this that you would want to partner with the Council on a shared vision for disability justice?



# Needs Assessment Objectives

- Develop and Prepare for state plan for the next 5 years: 2027-2031
  - Developed through data driven strategic planning and a comprehensive review and analysis of state needs
- Identify health disparities, disadvantages, challenges for people with IDD.
  - Gather input on importances of issues
- Gather information from people with IDD and their families from culturally diverse groups and communities

[Provide feedback here](#)

[Review the plan here](#)