

FFY 2025 Annual Report – DETAILED FINAL

South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities

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SECTION I: IDENTIFICATION

1. State/Territory: South Dakota
2. Federal Fiscal Year Reporting: October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025
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SECTION II: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS UPDATE

The service system for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in South Dakota supports an estimated 160 individuals from across three Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD). In South Dakota, there is one public ICF facility at the South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC) and two private facilities for youth. These ICF/DD facilities are for adults or children in need of active treatment, which includes 24/7 medical, therapeutic, and educational services, individualized treatment plans, and behavioral supports. Reviews of the services were conducted, and deficiencies were addressed. SDDC continues to work with community services providers as they face challenges in providing services to people with significant behaviors and need additional support. Broader systems-change work is

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occurring with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Crisis Continuum work group that has been formed.

The South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), under the direction of a new leadership team, has underwent a change in organizational structure to better support the mission of ensure people with I/DD have equal opportunities and receive the services and supports they need to live and work in South Dakota communities. Major changes in the redesign include: (1) specializing teams to manage the Division's waiver programs and provider quality and performance and (2) building capabilities and subject matter expertise, including hiring a full-time psychologist and add dedicate resources for policy development, data analytics, and a transition coordinator to help people transition to a new level of care.

In July 2025, the SD Division of Developmental Disabilities Crisis Continuum work group kicked off, which is a result of the continued need and desire for growth for the continuum of care services in the I/DD service system in South Dakota. Initially, about 25 stakeholders from various entities met with the DDD and Alverz & Marsal Consultants to define the crisis continuum in our state, inspect data, conduct some initial data analysis, look at emerging practices, and plan for next steps. A second meeting in August 2025 brought forth a list of considerations that South Dakota could explore to improve crisis continuum services, breaking the considerations down into two distinct areas: partnering across agencies and supports for families. At the writing of this report, the work group will reconvene in early November and move forward on those considerations.

The South Dakota Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities service system supports about 4,100 individuals between two Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers, Family Support 360 (FS360) and CHOICES.

Dakota at Home: South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to make strides in its No Wrong Door to services approach, which went live on June 1, 2023. Dakota at Home provides free unbiased information, referrals, and assistance to individuals - regardless of age, disability, income, or resources. Four state-wide intake specialists continue to field direct calls for resources, applications for services, and to answer questions, averaging 131 calls per month.

FS360 Waiver: The services and supports individuals receive in this waiver include case management / support coordination, respite care, companion care, personal care, supported employment, as well as technological and environmental supports (such as vehicle modification or home modifications) or supplementary therapies or nutrition.

In early 2024, all five of DDD's contracted Agency with Choice (AWC) providers of self-direction notified DHS of their intent to discontinuing offering co-employment services to people participants access self-directed care through the FS360 waiver. Consumer

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Direct Care Network South Dakota (CDSD) was contracted by DHS as a new vendor and as of May 2025, all participants who utilize AWC are being served by CDSD. The FS360 waiver was amended in late 2024 to support this change.

FS360 continues to host Town Halls and listening sessions that provide participants and families information and increase stakeholder engagement. As a part of the DDD reorganization, a new person is in the role of Family Support Manager. In this role, the employee will guide the direction of the Family Support programs, including the FS360 Waiver and Strengthening Families, a program designed to help eligible families by providing limited funding for products and services and was designed for persons who may not be eligible for FS360 or do not need intensive services.

The wait list for FS360 services in South Dakota currently stands about 180 individuals (approximate wait time is 8 months), most of the numbers centering in the southeast portion of the state. There are both state budget limitations and a lack of provider openings that contribute to this wait list.

CHOICES Waiver: Services and supports available to participants in this waiver include assistive devices and technology, day services (community, facility, virtual, or behavior support), residential habilitation (group home, shared living, supported living, supervised living), employment supports, or service supports. While there is currently no waiting list for the CHOICES waiver, however, individual provider services may have wait lists for their individual services (examples include: group home services, placement for individual with high medical needs).

In May 2024, CMS conducted an on-site visit to several CHOICES providers in SD, which resulted in an HCBS Settings finding report that including individual findings for some providers, as well as systematic findings. DSS and DDD have been partnering with the individual providers, as well as the provider network, on a plan to achieve sustainable compliance within the recommended corrective action plan. To meet CMS expectations, DDD will submit June 2025 systemic compliance evidence using SMART data, CQL accreditation, NCI data, and provider lease attestations, while providers complete required remediation. The plan also updates key quality systems—such as the ISP agenda, ISP guide, and SMART file review—to better capture community integration, non-disability specific setting preferences, rights restrictions, and lease requirements. Additional monitoring processes will verify lease updates and apply CMS's definitions of provider-owned or controlled settings.

In December 2024, a waiver amendment that would change the rules for vendors that can provide CHOICES services was drafted and submitted. This amendment states that CHOICES vendors may be able to provide out-of-state services if they are in an approved provider in the state(s) where they are provided the services and if they are in good standing in those states. This amendment was approved.

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2025 Annual Waiver Assurances:

- DDD was required to complete 307 CHOICES reviews in FY25.
- DDD was required to complete 161 FS360 reviews in FY25.
- For FS360, four of the thirty-five performances measures in FY25 fell below the 86% threshold.
- For CHOICES, four of the thirty-eight performances measures in FY25 fell below the 86% threshold.
- DDD identified Quality Improvement Plans to address each deficiency and reported those plans to CMS. DDD is in process of implementing the QIPs.

ARSD Update: In May 2025, rules 46:11:05:09.01 and 46:11:05:09.02 were amended. The effect of the rules will be to remove the requirement of human rights committee review of medication prescribed for treatment or stabilization of psychiatric conditions or sedation prior to medical or dental procedures and make such reviews optional at the request of the participant or their guardian. The requirement will be added that during each annual individualized service plan (ISP) meeting, the conflict-free case manager will ask if a review is requested. The rule requiring human rights committee and ISP approval before sedation will be repealed as the process is covered in the amended rule. These changes do not impact chemical interventions. The reason for adopting the proposed rules is the rules as currently written unduly burden participants, their families/guardians, and providers in requiring unnecessary reviews of prescriptions and medical decisions that must be made by the participants and their medical providers. These reviews can delay medications prescribed by a medical provider.

SECTION III: STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. Introduction

The Council's Five-Year State Plan includes three goals / targeted areas of emphasis: Community Services and Supports, Mental Health, and Advocacy and Leadership (Quality Assurance).

The Council continues its collaboration with many stakeholder organizations across the state of offer training and professional development opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their family members, guardians, and service providers.

Significant accomplishments for FFY 2025 included the continued outreach to Native Americans with disabilities and their families through activities conducted via the Oyate Circle; the hosting of the 3rd South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities, a conference held every other year that brings together advocates,

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family members, professionals and community stakeholders; reaching 750+ graduates of Partners in Policymaking; and supporting endeavors such as an inclusive outdoor camp for children with IDD and support for a local American with Disabilities Act festival celebrating 35 years of historic legislation.

Barriers to implementation of the state plan included some limitation to the amount of Council staff time to further some state plan activities due to retirement of the former Council Director after 31 years and the on-boarding of the new Director.

Currently, there are no major amendments to that are needed to the State Plan.

The annual report is disseminated through placement of the full report and a summary on the Boards and Commissions website, promotion of availability of the report on the Council's social media page, through available newsletters, and shared directly with agency stakeholders. Copies are provided as requested and in alternate formats as needed.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity is continually addressed when considering when and where the Council hosts activities, trainings, and initiatives. Throughout the grant application process and required reporting, Grantees must talk about their efforts to conduct activities in a way that is responsive to the beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes, language, and behaviors of the individuals who are taking part in their projects to ensure participation to the maximum extent possible. Relationships developed over the years continue to an important factor that supports cultural competence. When required, members of the DD Network often collaborate to ensure we participate and build new relationships as much as possible.

B. Evaluation of State Plan Implementation

B1. Evaluation Activities

Many of the evaluation activities are completed by Grantees over the course of their grants. Grantees are asked to provide either monthly or quarterly progress reports that are reviewed by the Council director and then shared with the full Council. Annually, Grantees complete a survey and provide performance measure data and stories. The Council discusses reports from Grantees or has presentations from the Grantees at their meetings to learn more, learn about the accomplishments and progress on the projects, and hear about any barriers directly from the grantees. The Council uses these presentations and updates from the Council director to review state plan goals and objectives and make any changes as needed to support the plan.

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B2. Evaluation Results

Rating Scale used – No Progress, Some Progress, Satisfactory Progress, and Excellent Progress.

Goal One (Community Supports and Services) saw *some progress* for all the objectives for the reporting period.

Goal Two (Mental Health) was rated *some progress* as Objective 1 was met in FFY 23 and Objective 3 had *some progress*. Work for Goal Two has been limited by Council staff time due to the transition in Council directors.

Goal Three (Advocacy & Leadership) saw *satisfactory progress* during this reporting period across all objectives.

All Grantees reported progress in meeting their expected outcomes, except for the Transition Success grant, a project that began in 2023 and continues through September 2026. The grantee recently notified the Council of their intent to submit an amendment to the work within the next few weeks to update their strategy / activities to ensure they meet the outcomes of the project. Further, all Grantees reported satisfaction from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members participating activities.

Overall, people with IDD and their families have reported satisfaction with activities conducted by the Council and its grantees. There remains a need for the Council to provide individual support to grantees to include Participant Information for people with IDD and their families so this could be reported more accurately in the future.

B3. Lessons Learned and Future Work of the Council

Reports, evaluations, and data from Grantees are considered by the Council as it reviews progress achieved on the State Plan and informs how we gather and share information. As a minimum allotment state, the Council works with just one staff. This tends to limit the Council's ability to do out outreach and plan specific training activities related to Goal 2 – Mental Health and Caregivers.

FFY25 saw the transition from the previous Executive Director to the current and priorities during this time lied with the new Director learning specific tasks, roles and responsibilities, and making connections with stakeholders, leaving little time to conduct those specific trainings, noted above.

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The Transition to Success grant held by South Dakota Parent Connection (SDPC) has noted some difficulties in providing in-person transition training to youth with IDD and their families. The work plan is currently undergoing an amendment which will allow SDPC to create virtual trainings that can be delivered on-demand to youth and families, with the option of individualized follow-up with SDPC staff to provide technical support, which will better be suited to meet families where they are.

Augustana University, with their Lighting the Way Autism Conference grant, found that after a hiatus and reorganization of the conference, attendees of this year's conference indicate a strong desire for the conference to continue. Organizers reported that they learned that future conferences will need to address the needs of participants who have a variety of experiences, knowledge, and needs with regards to the topic of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Another grantee, YMCA of Sioux Falls, reported lessons learned from their inaugural project that included building relationships with culturally specific organizations require more time and intentional effort than was available in the initial project timeline; a recognition of the need to strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure outreach is inclusive and effective.

The Council learned staff could provide more guidance to grantees about reporting requirements, including what information to collect and report on.

Immediate work of the Council will center on new State Plan preparations, support to Grantees as they work their respective projects/activities and assisting grantees working through challenges or supporting them through "lessons learned" and restructuring / reorganization around South Dakota's Supporting Families Community of Practice.

C. Input on National Priorities

Provide OIDD with information about disability priorities that your Council recommends be addressed by ACL/AoD/OIDD at the national level. Include ideas about partnerships ACL/AoD/OIDD could pursue with other federal agencies.

The top issues facing people with IDD, their families, and other stakeholders in South Dakota continue to guardianship / supported decision making; issues of wage stagnation, recruitment difficulties, and retention surrounding the direct support professional (DSP) workforce; respite care across the lifespan and collaboration with Aging and Disability Resource Centers remain a priority. Transition to adulthood remains a topic important to South Dakotans.

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SECTION IV: STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT**Section IV.A. Detailed Progress Report on Goals**

Goal #1: - Community Supports & Services – By 2026, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have increased awareness of resources to improve access to information and services.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this goal	Areas addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention	X	X
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports		

Strategies As identified in Section 125 (c)(5)(A-L) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402)	<i>Planned for this goal</i>	<i>Strategies Used</i>
Outreach	X	X
Training	X	X
Technical Assistance		
Supporting and Educating Communities	X	X
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	X	X
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	X	X
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Demonstration of projects and activities		

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Collaborators	Planned for this goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	X	X
University Center(s)	X	X
State DD Agency		X
Other: Black Hills Special Services Coop		
Other: SD Parent Connection		X
Other:		

1. Goal # 1: Community Supports and Services

2. **State Plan Objective 1:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☒ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☐ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

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7. (Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:

Ongoing key activities for this objective include development of general awareness resources, supporting parents and self-advocates to participate in workgroups and conferences; continuing support for the SD Community of Practice on Supporting Families; creation of a website that can be a hub for statewide disability information and resources; and hosting booths and displays at conferences.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. 4 Charting the LifeCourse Framework trainings will be held with 20 family members and 4 adults with IDD participating.
- b. 26 social media posts, newsletters, articles, PSAs were developed and shared weekly on disability awareness topics and resources.
- c. 20 self-advocates with IDD and 40 family members/guardians will receive assistance to attend workshops and conferences
- d. Develop Council website as a hub for disability information and resources.
- e. Share information and resources at 2 non-disability conferences and 1 disability conference with outreach to 100 people.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. 0 Charting the LifeCourse Framework trainings were held in FFY 25.
- b. 365 Facebook posts were created and/or shared on disability topics and resources, Council information, or stakeholder information.
- c. 19 self-advocates with IDD and 23 family members/guardians received assistance to attend workshops and conferences.
- d. RFP issued, vendor selected, contract completed, as well as initial kick-off meeting with vendor. Expected website launch date: 07/01/2026.
- e. Information and resources shared at six conferences reaching approximately 889 people.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

The South Dakota Supporting Families Community of Practice (CoP) is in its 9th year (SC1.5). The SD Supporting Families Community of Practice State Team has been a statewide collaborative group. On June 30, 2024, the current grant with the for the Supporting Families Community of Practice expired. At that time, there was a shift in leadership of the Director and Assistant Directors at the Division of Developmental Disabilities, which housed the grant. Due to this and other factors within in the Division, the current grant project director did not have permission to submit the application to the

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Council to continue most formal activities. Monthly meetings of the SD Facilitator Team continued to occur, as well as a few "Let's Talk About" events sponsored by CtLC Ambassador volunteers, however, formal grant work had ceased.

In early January 2025, the project director approached the Council about resuming the work more formally since new leadership within the Division approved. A grant application was submitted and accepted by the Council in April 2025. Due to Division restructuring, the grant request and scope of work was made smaller. Shortly after the Council approved the grant funding request, the project director for the grant made the Council aware of a massive shift in her job duties as she took another position within the Division. With this new role, there has been a struggle for the project director to gain momentum with activities. The only activity that occurred was the Grant Project Director (who is also a family member) and one other Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Ambassador, also a family member, attended the CtLC Showcase in April 2025. The attendance at the CtLC Showcase helped to impact people with IDD and their families to exercise self-determination and be included in all facets of community life, as they learned the most up-to-date practices involving the CtLC frame to utilize within the context of their own family, but also has the potential to impact many more people through their daily work in the DD system as they implement new knowledge and practices into their work and share with others.

The two attendees completed an evaluation survey at the end of the conference, and noted they were satisfied with the activity. Council staff is working with the project director to facilitate the completion of the remaining activities within the grant period (ending 3-31-2026).

IFA 1.2 - # of family members participating – 2

IFA 2 - # of family members satisfied – 2

SC 1.3 – # of promising practices or best practices created or supported - 1

SC 2.1.4 - # of promising and/or best practices implemented - 1

The Charting the LifeCourse Framework and Philosophy through the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families is a best practice that was supported.

SC 1.5 – # of Council Supported Systems Change activities – 1, the SD Supporting Families CoP

To encourage family members and adults with disabilities to attend a variety of conferences and workshops, the Council has provided Travel Assistance for many years. Council funds are limited but always appreciated as many families share that without such assistance, they would not be able to financially afford to attend and gain the knowledge they need to help their family members with disabilities. Assistance was provided to 17 family members and 20 people with IDD.

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IFA 1.1 - # of people with IDD participating – 20

IFA 1.2 - # of family members participating – 17

IFA 3.1 - # of people with IDD satisfied – 20 responded and 20 was satisfied (100%)

IFA 3.2 - # of family members satisfied – 17 responded and 17 were satisfied (100%)

Follow-up data includes satisfaction with the Council's travel assistance program.

SC 1.4 - # of people trained or educated through Council systems change activities - travel assistance participants reported that they shared the knowledge they gained with 494 people, including family members and friends, professionals working with their children/adults with disabilities, case managers, co-workers, legislators, and policymakers.

The Council has a grant with the Center for Disabilities for **Public Information**. Through this grant this year, info-graphics and videos were designed around the key topics of Accessibility Features in the Community, Steps to Voting, Basic Steps to Self-Advocacy, Coping with Loss, and A Day in the Life: Living Independently with Accessibility. These were shared on the Council's and the Center for Disabilities Facebook pages, as well as sent out on the Center's list-serv which reaches over 400 people.

Further, there are electronic copies of Resource Guides for People with Disabilities, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Handbooks, Developmental Disabilities Handbooks, FASD Educational Strategies, as well as the Autism LibGuide, the Deaf-Blind LibGuide, the Birth-to-3 LibGuide were accessed over 2,775 times. Total electronic copies: Autism LibGuide – 1,335; Birth-to-3 LibGuide – 754; Deaf-Blind LibGuide – 627; South Dakota Possibilities Magazines – 59.

In late 2025, the Center published a Possibilities Magazine that features employment and independent living success stories of people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities and occasionally includes information on programs available within South Dakota. Over 100 copies of the magazines from 2025 were disseminated at booths and conferences.

In addition to the handbook resources, the Center for Disabilities has a toll-free number and purchases resources for the Wegner Health Science Information Center. The books purchased are for all ages, so all are welcome to check out the books to read. Books for children/teens that feature characters with disabilities help them see representation of themselves and normalize disabilities in our society. There were also books for specific topics for available for research purposes. These two activities assist in giving the Center a larger expansion with all we do in the Council's outreach efforts. The toll-free number received 284 calls and there were 14 new materials purchased for the Wegner Health Information Center's collection. A total of 135 books were checked out from the

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collection during the reporting period, demonstrating consistent community use and interest.

SC 1.4 – 889 people were educated. The Council estimates that several people accessing or receiving a hard copy of materials picked up a minimum of 2 items while at Council booths. When people are accessing the materials at conferences, they often talk with Council staff and/or Center for Disabilities staff regarding current issues, resources available and new resources they needed, and other topics of discussion. Conferences attended by Council Staff included the Fall RehabACTION Conference (204 attendees), 2025 Special Education Conference (633 attendees), Early Childhood Conference (265 attendees), Partners Continuing Education (221 attendees), Lighting the Way Autism Conference (130 attendees), and the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities (320 attendees). 1,778 total with half being education on the who the Council and the Center are and other topics that are relevant to their field of work.

Through this grant, the Center for Disabilities assists the Council in hosting a Facebook page and sharing content. 365 posts were made covering topics such as upcoming events, post-secondary education, applications for board positions and awards, surveys, guardianship, special education, mental health, DD Awareness Month, NDEAM, and more. This year, the followers have grown from 545 to 730 followers.

Disability Day at the Capitol - Sixteen organizations supported the event/pt up booths in the Rotunda. Five South Dakota Advocates for Change were present at the event. Approximately 200 people, including the Lt. Gov, 2 cabinet Secretaries, 9 Senators, 17 Reps, and 15 policymakers dropped by the event. The Council shared information on Disability Etiquette, Person First Language, and the SD Possibilities Magazine. Disability Rights South Dakota shared many resources on advocacy. Several community-based providers shared resources on their services, including case management, shared living, day services, and more.

Website Development – The initial kick-off planning event occurred at the end of FFY25, with an estimated end date for the build and operational website for July 2026.

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. People with IDD and their families are more knowledgeable about Charting the LifeCourse Framework through the National Community of Practice on Supporting Families.

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- b. A wide variety of people see and interact with social media posts, newsletters, articles, and PSAs that increase their awareness of disabilities and disability issues.
 - c. The website/disability hub makes it easier for people with disabilities and families to locate information they need.
 - d. A variety of people, providers, and communities learn about resources and have opportunities to ask questions about the Council and its activities.
- 12. Outcomes Achieved:**
 - a. Two people attended the CtLC Showcase and no other formal work with this activity took place in FFY25.
 - b. Data analytics on the Council's Facebook page noted strong interaction regarding posts, which were shared to an even broader audience.
 - c. The website has not yet been launched, but progress is happening on the build.
 - d. Many people at conferences and other events were able to talk with Council staff regarding the Council and its activities.
- 13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective**

Progress on this objective is reported as SOME PROGRESS.

Overall, continued progress was made in sharing information and resources to people with IDD and their families through social media and in-person events. More targeted activities were done by the Council this year than in previous years. Completion of the website will increase access to resources across multiple areas of the state plan.

In terms of the SD Supporting Families Community of Practice activity, there has been minimal progress. While the project director and an ambassador attended the LifeCourse Showcase, Council Staff is working to with the named partner to ensure the Self-Advocate Leadership retreat occurs in February 2025 and assisting family members and self-advocates to receive Ambassador training/certification, the overall progress to meet all of the outcomes/activities of this grant by the end of the grant award period does not appear likely.

Individuals with IDD and their family continue to receive support to attend workshops and conferences that allow them to get information and resources to help meet the unmet needs in their lives.

There has been good progress on activities surrounding the Public Information grant and the dissemination of information. The Council continues to share

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information at a variety of conferences and hosting vendor booths at events. The work on the website is finally beginning in earnest.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

1. Goal # 1: Community Supports and Services

2. **State Plan Objective 2:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support at least one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. **This Objective is:**

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☒ Capacity Building

4. **This Objective is:**

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. **This Objective is:**

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. **Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:**

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. **(Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:**

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Building capacity of direct service providers as well as people with IDD and family members has been a high priority of the Council for many years. Many budgets do not include enough money for training and the Council has found many benefits to supporting these opportunities.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. 100 providers, people with IDD, family members or guardians participated in a professional development event.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. People with IDD, family members, and guardians participated in professional development events reported in other objectives of the state plan.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

No first responder trainings were planned for FFY25. Other outcomes for this objective were met in FFY24.

The Council was able to collaborate with other entities and successfully support a professional development activity that included professionals from a variety of community-based providers (developmental disabilities, education, OT, PT, and more) in FFY25.

The **Lighting the Way Conference**, Autism Spectrum Disorders in Our Community, was held June 6, 2025. It was a one day conference, followed by the Autism Walk awareness event the following day. One goal of the conference and walk is to raise awareness in the community of Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder; parents, educators, services providers, and others will have a better understanding of ASD and learn new strategies to support individuals with ASD and their families. Another goal was to provide training for educators, families, support personnel, service providers, first responders, day care providers, and community members to develop more effective strategies to meet the needs of individuals with ASD.

Breakout sessions included: Intro to ASD, ASD & Co-Occurring Conditions; Advocacy - What's In It For Me?; Utilizing Charting the LifeCourse Trajectory for IEP Planning; Mindfulness Skills and Strategies: A Pathway to Well-Being; Unlocking Communication - Where To Start; On Track and On Time: Useful Tools for Tackling Executive

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Dysfunction; Community Resources Panel Discussion, Intro to ABA; Messy Hands and Meaningful Words; State Support Services Review: A Panel Discussion of Services; and Raising Voices Together: A Family Conversation on Advocacy.

Approximately 130 individuals attended. Survey results were positive, with an overall conference satisfaction rating of 95% of respondents shared it was "engaging" and "provided knowledge." Participants found it useful and engaging. 43 attendees responded to the survey at the end of the conference. Not all survey respondents answered all questions. Some data that was provided to the Council was difficult to separate into whether individual with IDD data or family data. The Council will work with the grantee on being able to capture the data in a way that better informs for future reporting.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with IDD that participated in Council grant supported activities - 3

IFA 1.2 - # of family members that participated in Council grant supported activities - 24

IFA 2.3 - # of people who are better able to say what they want or what is important to them - 29

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are now participating in advocacy activities - 26 (was not broken down by individuals with IDD or family members on the data provided to the Council)

IFA 2.5 - # of people who are on cross-disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies, and/or serving in leadership positions - 10 (was not broken down by individuals with IDD or family members on data provided to the Council).

The **South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities: Celebrating Strengths, Inspiring Change** was held in August 26-27 with 320 attendees registered. This included professionals and providers from numerous organizations across South Dakota. More importantly, 16 individuals who identified as a person with IDD attended, as well as 51 individuals who are a family member of a person with IDD attended. Outcomes included an increase in knowledge, skills, strategies, ensuring cultural responsiveness in service provision, and understanding the contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families on communities. The conference included over 25 sessions covering topics including: Accessible technology innovations, leadership and advocacy programs, co-occurring IDD and other mental health conditions, sensory processing, trauma informed care, transition, Indigenous languages and complex communication needs, assisted decision making and guardianship, music therapy, unified and adapted sports, financial planning, and self-advocacy and parent/caregiver advocacy.

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The conference was open to all and intended for people with disabilities, family members, professionals in the field of developmental disabilities (healthcare, education, mental health), state and community agency providers. Conference organizers noted they had a very low satisfaction response rate for the conference - only 21.25% of attendees completed the survey. Of the 62 attendees who completed the survey, 98% noted being satisfied or very satisfied with the conference. They noted it might be difficult to draw reliable conclusions to overall satisfaction of the conference, but noted that over the two days, many heard very positive feedback.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with IDD who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 16

IFA 1.2 - # of family members who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 51

IFA 2.3 - # number of people who are better able to say what they want or what is important to them - 2 people with IDD and 9 family members (8 total)

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are participating now in advocacy activities - 2 people with IDD and 6 family members (8 total)

IFA 2.5 - # of people who are on cross-disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies, and/or serving in leadership positions - 2 people with IDD and 3 family members.

IFA 3.1 - percentage of people with DD who are satisfied with project activity. 2 participating and 2 satisfied (100%)

IFA 3.2 - percentage of family members satisfied with project activity - 7 participating and 5 satisfied (two left the question blank). (71%)

The Council and Independent Living Choices partnered with various South Dakota agencies, including the Center for Disabilities, the City of Sioux Falls, Levitt at the Falls, DAARB, Employment Disability Resources, Sanford, LifeScape, and Wheelchair Adventures to host **ADA Festival 35** in July 2025. This day-long event aimed to honor and highlight the contributions of individuals with disabilities within our community, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a range of disability-related services and products from 35 vendors. In addition, musicians, artists, and actors showcased their talents and share their passions with guests.

At the event, a total of 3,902 individuals were in attendance. To ensure an accurate count of participants, the event space was staffed with volunteers equipped with clickers to monitor the entry of attendees. According to a report by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), approximately 16.65% of South Dakotans have a developmental disability.

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Based on this statistic, it is estimated that around 650 individuals with developmental disabilities participated in the event.

Satisfaction survey data collected was low - the event was held outdoors, with many vendors and entertainment on the Levitt stage and food trucks. While participants were asked to respond to the survey, the grantee only received 41 responses. Of those 40 responses, 36 noted they were very satisfied and 4 noted they were satisfied.

Comments in the survey included, "I loved seeing so many others in the disability community; I learned about new resources and information I wasn't familiar with before and I loved seeing the ASL interpreters on stage," and "the performances were FANTASTIC and were a perfect combo of the ADA celebration!"

IFA 1.1 - # of people with DD who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 14

IFA 1.2 - # of family members who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 27

IFA 3.1 - the percentage of people with DD who are satisfied with a project activity - 14 participating - 14 satisfied (100%)

IFA 3.2 - the percentage of family members who are satisfied with a project activity - 27 participating - 27 satisfied (100%)

The **Project SEARCH** program in Brookings, which is ran in conjunction with ADVANCE (a local community service provider and the Brookings School District, wrote a mini-grant to for support to attend the International Project SEARCH conference in Austin Texas in July 2025 to update themselves on best practices within the world-wide run program and to enhance the program providers skills to improve outcomes for their interns. Two Project SEARCH staff attended the conference and brought back a wealth of information, which not only helped them better support the two interns in the program for the 2025-2026 school year, but also was information they provide to stakeholders who may be interested. The program director created a zip drive of over 193 files and 90 folders of information that was shared to other Project Search sites in the state, the Council, and widely shared through the states Vocational Rehabilitation networks. The program director also noted a new program, VocFit, that is being promoted, and they will be implemented. VocFit AI is now a part of Project SEARCH's fidelity model. The tool creates a more comprehensive plan for both transitional students and those searching for competitive employment. It is a strengths-based process.

The two attendees noted they were very satisfied with the project activities and noted, "I will emphasize that this grant and the financial support was critical for our team and us. Ongoing growth and development enhances our ability to empower our interns, families and communities. This matters. Thank you for your support."

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SC 1.3 - the # of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported - 1

SC 1.4 - the # of people trained or educated through Council systematic change initiatives -2

SC 2.1.3 - the # of promising and/or best practices improved as a result of system change activities - 1

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. Community-based providers are more knowledgeable about working with adults and children with IDD.
- b. People with IDD, family members, and guardians are provided learning opportunities with community-based provider staff.

12. Outcomes Achieved:

- a. Providers were provided opportunities for professional development that enabled them to become more knowledgeable about working with adults and children with IDD, which occurred with other objectives in the state plan.
- b. People with IDD, family members, and guardians are provided learning opportunities with providers through other objectives in the state plan.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

The Council was able to collaborate with other entities and successfully support a professional development activity that included professionals from a variety of community-based providers (developmental disabilities, education, OT, PT, and more.)

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

1. Goal # 1: Community Supports and Services

- 2. State Plan Objective 3:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of three agencies providing services to transition-aged youth.

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Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☒ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. (Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:

During the development of the state plan, the Council heard from parents and guardians about the need for more and better information related to transition services and the shift from school/education to work or adult services. The objective plans to reach providers and develop or revise resources to assist in the transition from adult to work or adult services.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. 3 schools will participate in activities to improve transition services for youth with IDD.
- b. 15 youth with IDD and 15 parents will participate in training about transition services.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. 2 communities/school participated in a Transition to Success Training.
- b. 15 youth with IDD and 7 parents / family members, and 10 professionals participated in training about transition services.

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10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

Transition to Success – In March 2024, South Dakota Parent Connection had approached the DD Council with a request to restructure the original grant proposal. Funding under this proposal would be used to conduct 5 Transition to Success training courses throughout the state. SDPC would continue to try to work with schools to host the training. At that time, there had been some interest in universities hosting trainings.

SDPC then took the train-the-trainer model and began to deliver it as training for families and youth. This consisted of an SDPC staff who worked with parents and youth over a 2-hour training period, typically in the evenings. The training was very hands-on, with participants completing guided worksheets and checklists in a participant's guide/folder. Resources such as the Guardianship Guide developed by SDPC and DRSD were given out, and other resources from local, state, regional, and national technical assistance centers were highlighted.

Goals for the training continued to include:

1. YWD and families have the knowledge and skills to achieve successful transition to post-secondary education/training, competitive employment, and community living/integration as they exit school
2. Educators have the knowledge and skills to support YWD and families to achieve successful transition to post-secondary education/training, competitive employment, and community living/integration as they exit school.

Trainings held included the following: In the Fall of 2024, a training was held in Sisseton (Northeast Area) with a small turnout. Two trainings were held in Gettysburg, one for students during the school day and one for their families in the evening. This was well attended. (32 attendees between these two trainings). One was also held in Rapid City. Although 15 people signed up for the training, no one showed up to that event.

In the Spring of 2025, training was organized and advertised for the Aberdeen area. It was scheduled to be held at the Aberdeen public library. Information was sent out to 9 school districts in the Aberdeen area. Students from NSU were also invited to attend. No one signed up for the training, so the training was canceled.

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Finally, training was held in the fall of 2025 for the Yankton/Vermillion area. It was held in the public library in Vermilion. Although it was well-advertised, and individuals did sign up to attend, no one showed up for the training.

Parents have expressed appreciation for the information they learned, stating that they wish they had had the information when their young adult was younger. Others stated, “Awesome information and conversation,” and “Very informative class. Glad I attended.” Out of 32 attendees at the two events, 20 completed the satisfaction survey, with 19 reporting they were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” and 1 “not satisfied”.

They responded through surveys that the information would be useful in helping them engage with the IEP team about transition. They also stated in comments to the presenters and in discussions during training that it helped them to realize they needed to help their youth become more engaged in decision-making and speaking up. SDPC stated that they know the value of the training from those who have attended. However, attendance is a concern moving forward.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with IDD participating – 15 students

IFA 1.2 - # of family members participating – 7 parents / family members

SC1.4 - # of people trained or educated through Council systematic change initiatives – 10 professionals.

At the end of FFY25, SDPC approached Council staff with the idea of modifying the proposal again, this time to take the training and develop an on-demand web training that could be sent out directly for families to partake in when they have time. As the writing of this report, the Council is awaiting a complete, new proposal to vote on at a later Council meeting.

Dissemination of the “What Parents Need to Know About Special Education”, printed in FFY24, continues. SDPC has given out approximately 150 of the 1,543 copies of the books they have on hand. Several copies have been given to Disability Rights South Dakota and the USD Center for Disabilities, but exact numbers of distribution from those partners are unknown.

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. Resources are guided by what parents and self-advocates need and in a format that works for them.

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12. Outcomes Achieved:

- a. Two schools participated in Transition to Success Training.
- b. The “What Parents Need to Know about Special Education Guide” continues to be disseminated.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as SOME PROGRESS.

Some progress was made in creating systems change within schools related to transition services for youth with disabilities. The grantee is proposing a change in current activities to the Council in January 2026.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

1. Goal # 1: Community Supports and Services

2. **State Plan Objective 4:** If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☒ System Change ☐ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

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6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

☒ planning ☐ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. (Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:

The Council wanted to have options available to respond to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or a natural disaster. The activities would center on mitigating the impact of public health emergencies or natural disasters on people with IDD, such as ensuring access to services, appropriate and culturally responsive actions, and supports to families and caregivers.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. Council members and staff participate in at least 3 workgroups or committees related to community-based services and supports.
- b. A minimum of 1 activity will be supported for an emerging issue, if needed.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. Council staff and members have participated in 6 workgroups or committees where current trends and needs were discussed.
- b. No activities were needed in FFY 2025.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

Council members and staff participated in Family Support Council and Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) meetings, and DDD Stakeholder Townhalls. Council staff participated regularly in workgroups for Early Learner SD Public Policy Collaboration Workgroup, Employment 1st Alliance, Community Advisory Committee, and attended Division of Social Services Townhall on proposed rules hearings. Added late in the FFY was DDD’s Crisis Continuum workgroup, which Council Staff is a current member.

No public health emergencies or natural disasters occurred that required action from the Council

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

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List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. Council members and staff share emerging issues and knowledge gained from the committees with the full Council and others.
- b. Community-based services and supports are improved based on activities completed.

12. Outcomes Achieved:

- a. Council members and staff shared information that they learned about emerging issues at other opportunities and at Council meetings.
- b. No activities were needed in FFY2025.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

Council members and Council staff continue to participate in focus groups, work groups, and grantee activities to learn about the current needs of people with IDD in South Dakota and about possible actions that could be produced by the Council to meet those needs. No activities were needed in response to any kind of public health emergency or natural disaster.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

Goal #1 – Community Supports and Services – Narrative

Statement of Assessment: No Progress, Some Progress, Satisfactory Progress, and Excellent Progress

Some progress continues towards people with IDD and families have increased awareness of resources, information and services. The Supporting Families Community of Practice work has slowed due to changes within Division of Developmental Disabilities leadership and the lead person changing roles. New and revised resources were made available on topics that have been requested by families and providers. Continued participation by staff in conferences, booths, workgroups, etc. provides a greater understanding of services provided by many state agencies (broader than just the Department of Human Services). Website development for the Council has begun, creating an ability to provide better reach of information. As such, people with I/DD, families, providers, and communities know more about people with I/DD and their needs. Collectively, it is felt that the work completed on FFY25 on this goal moved the Council

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somewhat closer to 5-year goal, but transitioning between the old and new executive director and no other Council staff to assist were a hinderance to expected progress. Currently, there is no goal amendment needs. No new dollars were leveraged towards this goal.

4 Year Overview (FY 2025)

A description of how the Council will use and build from knowledge gained and progress made to move forward in the next state plan cycle (FY 2022-2026).

The Council, through initial feedback, has learned there continues to be a need to increase the awareness of new resources, information and services, and support for families will likely strongly be considered in the next state 5 year state plan.

5 Year Overview (FY2026)

For the final PPR (FY2026) of this state plan cycle, provide an overall analysis of the outcomes achieved during the five-year state plan cycle. The description should include the extent to which diverse stakeholders are satisfied with council activities that promote self-determination and community participation for individuals with disabilities and families, results of other types of information gathering such as focus groups, surveys, or other feedback or input methods with individuals with developmental disabilities and families and major accomplishments and factors impeding goal achievement (if applicable)

Section IV.B. Individual & Family Advocacy Performance Measure (By GOAL)

Individual Responses (individuals with DD and Family members only) Demographic Data **

***This is an aggregated number from all individual responses collected for the reporting FFY*

Goal: Community Supports & Services

RaceEthnicity	#	%
White, alone	119	
Black or African American alone	1	
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	3	
Hispanic/Latino	0	
Asian alone	3	
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	0	
Two or more races or Race unknown	7	
Gender	#	%
Female	82	
Male	16	
Other	1	
Category	#	%
Individual with DD	41	
Family Member	104	
Geographical	#	%
Urban	59	
Rural	49	

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I. Output Measures

Performance Measures

Goal: Community Supports & Services

Objective	IFA 1.1 The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems	IFA 1.2 The number of family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and/or systems
Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).	20	19
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.	33	102
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.	5	7
If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster..	NA	NA
Denominator: TOTAL # of Output Respondents (this is the total number of people responding to a survey):	58	128

II. Outcome Measures

Sub-Outcome Measures

Goal: Community Supports & Services

Performance Measures	Percent (%)
IFA 2.1 After participation in Council supported activities, <u>the percent of people with developmental disabilities</u> who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.	NA
IFA 2.2 After participation in Council supported activities, <u>the percent of families</u> who report <u>increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.</u>	NA

IFA 2.3: The number (#) of people who are better able to say what they want/say what is important to them

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).	NA	NA
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.	2	9
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.	5	7
If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster..	NA	NA
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	7	16

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IFA 2.4: The number (#) of people who are participating in advocacy activities

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).	NA	NA
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.	2	6
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.	NA	NA
If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster..	NA	NA
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	2	6

IFA 2.5: The number (#) of people who are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions.

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).	NA	NA
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.	2	3
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.	NA	NA
If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster..	NA	NA
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	2	3

IFA 3

Satisfaction Metric	Percent (%)
IFA 3 The percent of people satisfied with a project activity	98% (105/107)
IFA 3.1 The percentage (%) of people with developmental disabilities who are satisfied with a project activity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals: Divide the # of positive responses by PWDD to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.1. denominator) 	100% (39/39)
IFA 3.2 The percentage (%) of family members satisfied with a project activity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Members: Divide the # of positive responses by family members to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.2 denominator) 	97% (66/68)

Section IV.C. System Change Performance Measures (By GOAL)

SC 1: Outcome Measures

The number of Council efforts to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

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Goal: Community Supports & Services

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specifically target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	1
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	1
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	1427
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	1

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0

SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	1
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	1
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	2
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	2
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

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

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0

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Systems Change SC 2: Outcome Measures (by Goal)

Outcome Measures	Number (#)
SC 2.1 The number of Council efforts <i>that led to the creation or improvement of best or promising practices, policies, procedures, statute or regulation changes. (sub-measures 2.1.1; 2.1.3)</i>	0
SC 2.2 The number of Council efforts <i>that were implemented</i> to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. <i>(sub-measures 2.1.2; 2.1.4)</i>	0

III. Sub-Outcome Measures

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multiple media formats weekly and specific target 6 new groups or locations (such as clinics, schools, nursing students, etc.).

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to support one professional development opportunity for community-based providers, family members, guardians, and people with IDD.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	1 - Proj. Search
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to improve policies and practices at a minimum of 3 agencies providing services to transition age youth.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

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

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

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Goal #2: - Mental Health – By 2026, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have improved access to individually designed mental health services in their own communities.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this goal	Areas addressed
Quality Assurance		
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health	X	X
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	X	X

Strategies As identified in Section 125 (c)(5)(A-L) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402)	Planned for this goal	Strategies Used
Outreach	X	
Training	X	
Technical Assistance	X	
Supporting and Educating Communities	X	
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	X	X
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs	X	X
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign	X	X
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	X	X
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Demonstration of projects and activities		

Collaborators	Planned for this goal	Actual
State Protection and Advocacy System	X	X
University Center(s)	X	X

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State DD Agency	X	X
Other: Division of Behavior Health	X	X
Other: Community Support Providers	X	X
Other: Community Mental Health Providers	X	X

1. Goal # 2: Mental Health

2. **State Plan Objective 1:** In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns to their community.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. **This Objective is:**

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☒ System Change ☐ Capacity Building

4. **This Objective is:**

☐ New ☐ Ongoing ☒ Completed

5. **This Objective is:**

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. **Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:**

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. **(Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:**

In preparation for the Council's FFY 2022-2026 State Plan, there were many comments from family members regarding the need for more access to mental health services for children and adults with IDD who also have co-occurring mental health disabilities. It was determined that an assessment

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of the status of mental health services for people with IDD was needed. As the work that was required to complete the first assessment was not done until December 2023, no second assessment will be conducted.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. One assessment will be completed.
- b. Findings will be shared with 25 policy makers.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. The assessment was completed with a final report issued in December 2023.
- b. The final report has been shared with the DDD Crisis Continuum Workgroup that convened in July 2025.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

This objective was completed with the finalization and the sharing of the assessment report. Due to the timing, the objective was adjusted, and a second assessment will not be completed during this State Plan cycle. The report information, after being initially shared with stakeholders, has been brought to the Crisis Continuum work group and will continue to inform policymakers and professionals working with individuals with IDD and co-occurring mental health issues.

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. The Council and other policymakers will have a clearer understanding of the capacity of the system and needs/issues.
- b. The findings will assist the Council in developing future activities.

12. Outcomes Achieved:

- a. The completed assessment offers a better understanding of the capacity of developmental disabilities and mental health systems along with gaps and barriers. It informs the newly formed Crisis Continuum workgroup.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as MET.

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The objective was completed with the finalization and sharing of the assessment report in FY2024. Due to the timing, it was decided that a second assessment will not be completed during this State Plan cycle and the objective was adjusted.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

1. Goal # 2: Mental Health

2. **State Plan Objective 2:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. **This Objective is:**

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☒ Capacity Building

4. **This Objective is:**

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. **This Objective is:**

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. **Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:**

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. **(Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:**

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Family members and other stakeholders spoke to the need for more awareness among communities and providers of the challenges faced by people with IDD and mental health challenges during the preparation for the state plan.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. Events or activities will take place in 2 communities or locations.
- b. Activities will involve 20 people with IDD, 20 family members or guardians, and 50 service providers and community members.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. Yes - an event for people with IDD and/or family members of people with IDD was reported through the Partners Continuing Education portion of the Leadership grant and a breakout on Understanding IDD and Co-Occurring Mental Health Conditions occurred at the SD Conference on DD.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

During FFY2025, the Council itself was not able to create / host an event or activity in 2 communities or locations. FFY2025 was a transition year between executive directors, and the ED is the only staff person for the Council.

While formal activities were not held specifically by the Council staff, Council staff was able to meet with a local community health provider in late FFY25 to begin planning activities for FFY26. Additionally, two events for people with IDD and/or family of people with IDD and mental health was provided and reported to through Partners Continuing Education (goal 3, objective 1) and the SD Conference on DD (goal 1, objective 2).

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. Community members, people with IDD, family members, guardians and service providers have a greater awareness of the needs of people with IDD who also have mental health concerns.
- b. Two communities learn more about people with IDD.

12. Outcomes Achieved:

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- a. The outcome was achieved with one event being provided and reported on through the Partners Continuing Education event (goal 3, objective 1) and the SD Conference on DD (goal 1, objective 2).

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as SOME PROGRESS.

The objective is noted as having only some progress during the reporting period due to the transition from the previous director to the new director and the Council only having one staff. Additional efforts to share information with people with IDD, family members, community members, and service providers are being coordinated with various stakeholders for activities for FFY26.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

1. Goal # 2: Mental Health

2. **State Plan Objective 3:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate with others on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and direct support providers on maintaining their own well-being.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☐ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☒ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

- a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No
- c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No
If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

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- e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,
If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort:
name of project/ mm/yy

6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

- ☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

7. (Background) Provide an Overall Description of this Effort:

As the Council discussed the of co-occurring mental health issues and IDD, a common topic was helping caregivers, whether paid or unpaid, to understand how taking care of themselves allow them to be better caregivers for people with IDD that they support. Broad activities for this objective include training or resources that help people learn how to take care of themselves while also being a caregiver, learning what leads to burnout, and resources for support.

8. Expected Outputs – List the expected outputs from the annual work plan.

- a. One event or resource will be developed and/or shared with 100 family caregivers and direct support professionals.

9. Outputs Achieved –

- a. Activities planned were not implemented during this reporting period.

10. Progress Report

This section is to focus on the activities implemented for the objective. Note: the assessment of progress is reported in the section “Progress towards achieving outcomes for the overall project.” See other notes in ITACC guidance.

Due to limited time staff to pursue other activities, no events/resources were held specific to supporting paid and unpaid caregivers of people with IDD and mental health challenges during this reporting period.

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective):

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan:

- a. Family caregivers and direct support professionals learn useful tools and resources to help them maintain their own well-being while supporting people with IDD and mental health concerns.

12. Outcomes Achieved:

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- a. Because planned activities were not implemented for this objective during this reporting period, no outcomes were achieved.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective

Progress on this objective is reported as NO PROGRESS

The objective is noted as having no progress during the reporting period. The only activity that could be reported on was the Continuing Education activity, which occurs as a part of Partners in Policy making (goal 3, objective 1), where there was a presentation on Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Services. However, the grantee did not obtain sufficient data collection to be able to note how many attendees were present, nor was the Council able to yield any satisfaction data about the session.

14. Stories of People with DD whose lives are better because of Council work.

Goal #2 – Mental Health – Narrative

Statement of Assessment: No Progress, Some Progress, Satisfactory Progress, and Excellent Progress

Some (minimal) progress was made on this goal for FFY2025. The completion of the Assessment of Services for People with IDD and Mental Health Challenges was a big step in know the current strengths and challenges of the system. Council collaborators, including the Division of Behavioral Health, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, community service providers, and other stakeholders have been meeting on the Crisis Continuum Workgroup. This workgroup has estimated that of the 2,679 people on the CHOICES waiver in SFY2024, 83 total people had a least once mental health crisis incident, which can include a visit to the emergency room with a behavioral health diagnosis, has a behavioral restraint incident with a notification level of “high”, or has been administer to the South Dakota Developmental Center.

The Crisis Continuum Workgroup has developed considerations to improve the crisis continuum services, which include:

- Partnering across departments and divisions
- Support for families
- Balance access to medications with protections
- Access crisis supports in any location
- Quickly assessing crisis services
- Strengthening Community Collaboration

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- Improving the behavior support plan
- Adding capacity
- Improving assessments and data tracking

The Council expects to provide additional activities for these objectives related to the information and education for family caregivers, direct support professionals, and communities.

4 Year Overview (FY 2025)

A description of how the Council will use and build from knowledge gained and progress made to move forward in the next state plan cycle (FY 2022-2026).

The issues surrounding people with IDD and co-occurring mental health remain steady and input from various stakeholders still note a need for more mental health services for people with IDD in their own communities. The Council may consider carrying this goal into the next 5 year state plan.

5 Year Overview (FY2026)

For the final PPR (FY2026) of this state plan cycle, provide an overall analysis of the outcomes achieved during the five-year state plan cycle. The description should include the extent to which diverse stakeholders are satisfied with council activities that promote self-determination and community participation for individuals with disabilities and families, results of other types of information gathering such as focus groups, surveys, or other feedback or input methods with individuals with developmental disabilities and families and major accomplishments and factors impeding goal achievement (if applicable)

Section IV.B. Individual & Family Advocacy Performance Measure (By GOAL)

Goal: Mental Health

Race/Ethnicity	#	%
White, alone	0	
Black or African American alone	0	
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0	
Hispanic/Latino	0	
Asian alone	0	
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	0	
Two or more races or Race unknown	0	
Gender	#	%
Female	0	
Male	0	
Other	0	
Category	#	%
Individual with DD	0	
Family Member	0	
Geographical	#	%
Urban	0	
Rural	0	

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I. Output Measures

Goal: Mental Health

Objective	IFA 1.1 The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems	IFA 1.2 The number of family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and/or systems
In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.	NA	NA
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.	0	0
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.	0	0
Denominator: TOTAL # of Output Respondents (this is the total number of people responding to a survey):	0	0

II. Outcome Measures

Goal: Mental Health

Performance Measures	Percent (%)
IFA 2.1 After participation in Council supported activities, the percent of people with developmental disabilities who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.	NA
IFA 2.2 After participation in Council supported activities, the percent of families who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.	NA

IFA 2.3: The number (#) of people who are better able to say what they want/say what is important to them

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.		
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	0	0

IFA 2.4: The number (#) of people who are participating in advocacy activities

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.		

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Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	0	0
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IFA 2.5: The number (#) of people who are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions.

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.		
Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.		
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	0	0

IFA 3

Goal: Mental Health

Satisfaction Metric	Percent (%)
IFA 3 The percent of people satisfied with a project activity	NA
IFA 3.1 The percentage (%) of people with developmental disabilities who are satisfied with a project activity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals: Divide the # of positive responses by PWDD to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.1. denominator) 	NA
IFA 3.2 The percentage (%) of family members satisfied with a project activity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Members: Divide the # of positive responses by family members to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.2 denominator) 	NA

Section IV.C. System Change Performance Measures (By Goal)

Goal: Mental Health

Objective: In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	0
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	0

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SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0
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Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	0
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

Systems Change SC 2: Outcome Measures (by Goal)

Goal: Mental Health

Outcome Measures	Number (#)
SC 2.1 The number of Council efforts <i>that led to the creation or improvement of best or promising practices, policies, procedures, statute or regulation changes. (sub-measures 2.1.1; 2.1.3)</i>	0
SC 2.2 The number of Council efforts <i>that were implemented</i> to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. <i>(sub-measures 2.1.2; 2.1.4)</i>	0

III. Sub-Outcome Measures

Goal: Mental Health

Objective: In FFY2022 and in FFY2026, the Council will collaborate to complete an assessment of the capacity of the current system to support people with IDD and mental health concerns in their communities.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate to provide two education or awareness activities related to mental health services for people with IDD.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will collaborate on one event and/or resource that provides information for family caregivers and/or direct support providers to maintain their own well-being and better serve people with IDD.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

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Goal #3: Advocacy & Leadership – By 2026, the DD Network (Council, Disability Rights SD and USD Center for Disabilities) will collaborate so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have information, training, support, and opportunities to effectively advocate and impact systems change and participate in cross-disability coalitions.

Area of Emphasis	Planned for this goal	Areas addressed
Quality Assurance	X	X
Education and Early Intervention		
Child Care		
Health		
Employment		
Housing		
Transportation		
Recreation		
Formal and Informal Community Supports	X	X

Strategies As identified in Section 125 (c)(5)(A-L) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402)	Planned for this goal	Strategies Used
Outreach		X
Training	X	X
Technical Assistance	X	
Supporting and Educating Communities		X
Interagency Collaboration and Coordination	X	X
Coordination with Related Councils, Committees and Programs		
Barrier Elimination		
Systems Design and Redesign		
Coalition Development and Citizen Participation		
Informing Policymakers	X	X
Demonstration of New Approaches to Services and Supports		
Demonstration of projects and activities		

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Collaborators	Planned for this goal	Actual
State Protection & Advocacy System	X	X
University Center(s)	X	X
State DD agency	X	X
Other: Oyate Circle	X	X
Other: local self-advocacy groups	X	
Other: Transition Services Liaison Project	X	

1. Goal # 3: Advocacy & Leadership

2. **State Plan Objective 1:** Each year of the state plan, in collaboration with the DD Network and others, advocacy and leadership training will continue for 35 youth and adults with IDD and 35 family members or guardians.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☒ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☐ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☒ Yes ☐ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

Background/Context

7. Provide an overall description of this objective:

People with IDD and their family members/guardians continue to need information and training on the advocacy process and opportunities for leadership. New families enter the arena of developmental disabilities all the time and offering advocacy and leadership training impacts not only their lives but the lives of others with IDD. Policy boards at all levels need trained family members to participate and move the system forward through their actions.

8. **Expected Outputs** - List expected outputs from annual work plan
- Partners in Policymaking training is supported to train 20 people with IDD, family members and guardians.
 - The Youth Leadership Forum provides training to 20 youth with IDD and others.
 - At least 5 opportunities for expanded leadership are shared with training participants.
9. **Outputs Achieved** - List outputs achieved
- Year 33 class of Partners in Policymaking included 17 people with IDD, family members and guardians.
 - The Division of Rehabilitation Services now fully funds the Youth Leadership Forum and Council support is no longer needed.
 - Five opportunities for participation on other state boards and councils were shared with Partners graduates and others.

Progress Report

10. The report should include the following:

- A narrative progress report that cohesively describes the activities that were implemented toward achieving the objective, including **how** the identified strategy was used, how the activity was implemented, challenges to achieving the objective and unexpected benefits.
- For system change activities, include a description of the stage of implementation (planning, initiation, implementation, outcome/fully integrated) of the system change initiative.
- All narratives must describe what numbers make up the performance measures number for the activities being reported in the narrative.
- A summary of evaluation activities to monitor progress and impact of council supported activities for the objective; data collected during the year, data

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sources, and data collection methods; (logic model and evaluation plan may be attached to the report).

Partners in Policy making is an initiative that offers leadership and advocacy training for individuals with developmental disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and their families (SC 1.3 and 2.1.4.).

Outreach efforts by Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) target communities that are often unserved or under-served, including Tribal Nations. Participants in each class must apply for the training and then a selection of graduates of Partners get together to discuss the applications and select the class. Each year around 20-30 applications are received.

Partners are expected to actively apply the skills they learn to drive positive changes in community awareness, sensitivity, accessibility, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. This commitment involves attending six 2-day training sessions from November to April. Each session features presentations and interactive discussions led by experts in the disability and advocacy fields.

Graduates of Partners have reported they feel more proactive in IEPs for their child and are also helping other friends and family to understand the IEP process. Parents/family members reported they now have a better understanding of their rights and how IEP meetings operate. Parents can remain more objective; they have learned to negotiate.

Several individuals, after graduation, are now running their own team meetings, voicing their views and choices in life, and are powerful and knowledgeable in systems change. Graduates have helped bring bills before the Legislature and/or requested studies be granted by the Legislature for the betterment of individuals in South Dakota who have disabilities and their family members.

Session 1- November 2025. The PiP coordinator outlined the values of the Partners program and presented its objectives, expectations, and historical context. The first presentation featured a panel where participants gained insights into the history of disability rights, the parent movement, independent living, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Previous graduates of the Partners program shared their motivations for participating and the impact the program had on their lives. An overview of the ADA and its evolution over time was shared. Dr. Kim Nielsen concluded day one with a presentation that offered various perspectives on the treatment of individuals with disabilities. Participants engaged with members of SDAC, who shared their experiences as self-advocates. The session concluded with Amanda Martin and Mollie Keating addressing the importance of self-advocacy.

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Session 2 - December 2024. Focused on hearing from a local member of the school board and videos from SD Department of Tribal Relations. Steven Watkins, CEO of LifeScape, presented the legislative chain of command in South Dakota, explaining the various sections, positions, and hierarchy, which included details about Senate/House leadership roles. Dr. Carla Miller discussed South Dakota Parent Connect, their role in the community, and tips on effective meetings. Linda Turner, Director of Special Ed and Early Learning discussed special education in south Dakota. Denise Bandle, owner of Adaptive Tech Solutions. Denise is an entrepreneur and inventor. She works with clients to adjust current projects to meet their accommodation needs. Amanda Martin and Carrie Geppert explained the purpose of Charting a Life course and how it can be the backbone of person-centered planning.

Session 3 - January 2025. Steve Willard explained the Who, What, and Why of the legislature. Mr. Willard explained who the members and leadership were in the House and Senate, and their purpose and responsibilities. Willard went on to explain why the House and Senate operate and who they represent. Robert Kean led the group in the House and Senate and explained where specific members were seated as well as other functions of each area. On Friday the class participated in a mock committee meeting. The day started with the class working with their bill coaches who helped to go over the bills and form testimony. Session three finished with the class learning from Robert Kean how to utilize the LRC webpage. Robert presented the ADA history, amendment act of 2008, titles 1-5, enforcement, and definitions.

Session 4 - February 2025 - The first day started with John Hamilton discussed IDEA and learned how to strengthen the role of the parent, student, and other adults' role in the IEP/IPE/ISP process. Miah Gillen and Dan Rounds spoke with the participants about transition planning, support, and technical assistance students, families, and local education. Dr. Schwarz discussed inclusion and how this remains a concern throughout the lifetime.

Session 5 – March 2025 – Lisa Peterson from ILC spoke about their services. Theresa Marzahn covered one page profiles and their importance in person-centered planning. Amanda Miller discussed Medicaid Fraud Abuse and Neglect. Last topic was the intersectionality of disability, trauma, sexual assault and health relationships

Session 6 – April 2025 - Participants heard a presentation from Robert Kean on Social Security, Derrick Dufrense discussed how he consults parents, school systems, and young people to assist in transition planning for individuals as they move from the educational system to adult services, and Rhonda Erickson presented on Benefit Specialist services. Dr. Eric Kurtz spoke on to the role of The University of South Dakota: Center for Disabilities as well as the Department of Developmental Disability. DRSD discussed issues facing individuals with

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disabilities in SD, including: Special Education, Access to Communities, Programs and Services, Housing, Medical Care, Mental Health Care, Employment, Voting Access, Assistive Technology, Traumatic Brain Injury, Guardianship Issues, amongst others. Other presentations, as a part of Continuing Education, included: Assistive Technology Options, Charting the LifeCourse, Effective Communication, Voices from the Newspaper Club (Disability Rights in 1990's Indiana), Understanding the Nervous System and Developmental Disabilities, Advocacy and Effective Meetings, Employment Discrimination, You Matter – Peer to Peer Mental Health, SD Advocates for Change Panel, and Yoga for All Abilities.

Demographic information and advocacy responses were provided by 23 participants at of Year 33 Partners in Policymaking/Continuing Education.

IFA 1.1 – # of people with IDD participating – 12 people with IDD in Continuing Education and 5 people in Partners (TOTAL: 17)

IFA 1.2 – # of family members participating – 10 family members/guardians in Continuing Ed and 9 in Partners (TOTAL: 19)

There were 17 participants in Year 33: 5 people with IDD and 9 parents/family members and 3 DRSD staff). Continuing Education was attended by 124 past graduates (21 people with IDD, 71 parents/family members, 32 DRSD and staff).

IFA 2.3 – # of people who are better able to say what they want or what is important to them – 10 people with IDD and 12 family members

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are participating in advocacy activities – 5 people with IDD and 8 family members

IFA 3.1 – # of people with IDD who are satisfied with the project – 12

IFA 3.2 - # of family members satisfied with the project – 10

SC 1.4 – # of people trained or educated – 226 people (5 legislators participated in mock testimony and learned more about people with IDD and their families; 221 family members, congressional staff, board members and others were educated during the graduation event).

Becoming a **member of another board or council** is highly encouraged and opportunities are shared with all participants in Partners. Opportunities were shared to apply for or participate in the following boards or committees: DD Council, Family Support Council, Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Statewide Independent Living Council, Special Education Advisory Panel on Children with Disabilities, and Supporting Families Community of Practice.

IFA 2.5 - # of people with IDD on cross disability boards – 2 (out of 23 surveys submitted)

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IFA 2.5 - # of family members or guardians on cross disability boards – 4 (out of 23 surveys submitted)

Partner graduates on boards and councils - 11 people with IDD and 29 family members/guardians indicated they were on the DD Council (Val Husby, Toni Feist, Nicole Meyer, Megan Dornan, Makena Schultz), Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (Betsy Drew), Family Support Council (Toni Feist, Brittney Norin, Janet Whiting Peggy Waltner), Independent Living Council (Brad Konechne), DSS, DDD and DHS Workgroups, SD Advocates for Change Leadership Team, church boards, non-profit boards, and Disability Rights SD boards (Amber Finnesand, Julie Dresbach).

Many Partners have run for political office, including statewide and local. Two graduates have been mayors. Several have been elected by local city councils and school boards. Several have run for a seat in the State House of Representatives. Partners have indicated that they have or currently serve on the following boards: Developmental Disability Board, DD Council, CCI Rights Board, Tribal Boards, Advocates for Change Leadership, Employment First Alliance, CSP Board of Directors, Church Board, Non-Profit Board, DRSD Board, PAIMI Board, Dakota Link Advisory Council, Planning Committee for the DD Conference, Family Support Council, Parent Connection Board, DSS, DDD & DHS work groups, Policy Council Board, and Association of SD Peer Supporters.

DD Network Collaboration – Together, the Center for Disabilities, Disability Rights South Dakota, and the Council work to share the applications for Partners and other advocacy opportunities. Staff from all three organizations participate in the trainings as presenters and facilitators of small group sessions and financially support the Partners in Policymaking Program. As the DD network directors meet monthly, changes to the PiP program are often discussed and support provided to find new presenters or change up activities provided.

The Sioux Falls Family YMCA received mini-grant support to launch **Give Kids the Woods**, a new two-day outdoor camp experience specifically designed for children with disabilities. Hosted at Camp Leif Ericson on August 18–19, 2025, the program provided accessible and adaptive activities such as nature walks, crafts, soccer, BB guns, fishing, boating, and the flying squirrel ropes, creating a safe and joyful environment for 40 participants between the ages 6 to 18. The goal was to foster belonging, build confidence, and provide barrier-free access to outdoor recreation through intentional, sensory-friendly programming led by trained staff and volunteers. Self-advocacy and person-centered planning was a cornerstone of success for the program. Participants and families had the opportunity to be trained on how to create a one-page description to help best support their child's needs while at camp and to learn skills in how to advocate for their children's needs. There was originally one person centered one page

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training event scheduled, however, in an effort to increase attendance, 4 more sessions were added. After the training sessions, 64% said that they felt more confident in expressing their child's needs after the training activity.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with DD who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 40 youth with IDD

IFA 1.2 - # of family members trained by Council Grant supported activities - 19

IFA 2.3 - # of people who say they are better able to say what they want or what is important to them - 0 with IDD and 9 family members.

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are participating now in advocacy activities - 0 youth with IDD and 9 family members

IFA 2.5 - # of people who are currently serving on coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies, or leadership positions - 2 family members

IFA 3.1- 40 youth with IDD participated in the project activity. 14 out of 14 surveyed (100%) shared they were satisfied with the camp.

IFA 3.2 - 14 parents participated in the post-project survey - 13 stated they were satisfied (92.9%)

SC 1.3 - the number of promising practices and/or best practices created and/or supported - 1 person centered one page description training.

SC1.4 - the number of people trained or educated through Council systematic change activities - 19 people

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective)

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan

1. More people with IDD, their families and guardians understand the process of advocating and learn skills to be better advocates, including those from rural areas and culturally diverse backgrounds.
2. Youth with IDD have an opportunity to learn self-advocacy skills with peers who have disabilities.

12. Outcomes achieved

- a. Training was held for people with IDD, their families and guardians, including those from rural areas and culturally diverse backgrounds.

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13. **Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective:**

The annual report should include an assessment as to the extent to which progress was made on the intended outcomes for the objective.

This objective was met. Providing people with IDD and their family members training on a variety of advocacy and leadership topics and in continuing their advocacy work as members of boards and councils was completed. Due to the Youth Leadership Forum no longer needing funding from the Council, outreach to youth with IDD was completed through Goal Objective 3 and Goal 1 Objective 3.

14. **Stories of people with DD whose lives are better because of Council work; stories of policy or legislative changes because of Council work.** The purpose of the stories is for the Council to illustrate how the important work of Councils affects people with developmental disabilities and their families, service systems, and public policy. You can include stories from different points of view (people with I/DD, family members of people with I/DD, communities, policymakers, representatives of systems of services and supports affected by systems change efforts).

Quotes from Year 33 Graduates:

"This was a wonderful experience! So very informational and he provided great resources for personal and professional growth."

"Lots of new and valuable information."

"Thank you for sharing your life story. Also, thank you for making us feel valuable!"

"I was very impressed with how in-depth this training was. Thank you for the true nuts and bolts road map of advocating."

Two individuals who were graduates of Year 33 applied and were appointed the DD Council a few months after graduating from Partners, one of whom is an individual with IDD. She spoke with Council staff about her advocacy journey. Out of high school, she was accepted into the state's only inclusive post-secondary program (Augie Access at Augustana University) and started to learn about advocacy there. She joined the Augie Access Leadership Club and was involved with Special Olympics. As her time at Augustana ended, she began looking for more opportunities for leadership development and found Partners in Policymaking. Before Partners even finished, she met one of her local state

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representatives, and discussed her dislike of the word "disability" and instead how she'd like state government to recognize "people's abilities instead". She worked with a state Senator (Casey Crabtree), helping to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 607 passed in the legislative session 2025. She says, "Partners helped me. I know I can make my voice heard and help change things. Things I don't agree with." She is now a graduate assistant with Partners, consistently involved with South Dakota Advocates for Change, and is presenting at conferences and training to share her knowledge and skills.

1. **Goal # 3: Leadership & Advocacy**
2. **State Plan Objective 2:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD; to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills of the SDAC Leadership Team and others with IDD and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. **This Objective is:**
☒ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☐ Capacity Building
4. **This Objective is:**
☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed
5. **This Objective is:**
 - a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - b. Targeted Disparity ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No
If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy
 - e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,
If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy
6. **Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:**

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☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

Background/Context

7. Provide an overall description of this objective:

Self-advocacy has always been an important project for the Council. In the past 30 years, the Council has had 3 organizations begin projects for self-advocacy that eventually did not continue or produce the desired results. The Council director supported the SDAC Leadership Team and beginning with FFY22, Disability Rights SD submitted a proposal to support the self-advocate activities.

South Dakota Advocates for Change (SDAC) is the self-advocacy organization, and this objective relates to their work to meet quarterly, develop leadership, advocacy, and presentation skills, create presentations, and give those presentations to other advocates, and sharing information through newsletters, infographics and videos.

- 8. Expected Outputs –** List expected outputs from annual work plan
- a. SDAC Leadership Team meets a minimum of 4 times.
 - b. SDAC Leadership Team develops and gives 2 presentations to 30 others with IDD.
 - c. 4 SDAC newsletters are created and disseminated.
 - d. Current and past members of SDAC receive information on opportunities to become involved with other cross-disability boards and coalitions.
- 9. Outputs Achieved –** List outputs achieved
- a. Leadership Team met 11 times.
 - b. Leadership Team presented at 3 different opportunities
 - c. Newsletters were not created / disseminated due a change in staff.
 - d. The SDAC Network was updated regularly for information on opportunities to apply for positions on other boards and coalitions.

10. Progress Report

The report should include the following:

- A narrative progress report that cohesively describes the activities that were implemented toward achieving the objective, including **how** the identified strategy was used, how the activity was implemented, challenges to achieving the objective and unexpected benefits.

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- For system change activities, include a description of the stage of implementation (planning, initiation, implementation, outcome/fully integrated) of the system change initiative.
- All narratives must describe what numbers make up the performance measures number for the activities being reported in the narrative.
- A summary of evaluation activities to monitor progress and impact of council supported activities for the objective; data collected during the year, data sources, and data collection methods; (logic model and evaluation plan may be attached to the report).

South Dakota Advocates for Change (SDAC) is the self-advocacy organization supported by the Council. The Leadership Team includes advocates from across the state. This objective relates to their weekly, monthly, and quarterly meetings; developing leadership, advocacy and presenting skills; creating presentations and giving those presentations to other advocates and stakeholders; and sharing information via newsletters, info graphics, presentations and videos. In the middle of FY 24, Devin Labbee-Darling from Disability Rights South Dakota, took over as the Self-Advocacy Coordinator and the group as been going through some rebuilding / restructuring.

FY 25 SDAC Leadership Team included 24 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and 2 supporters that included 2 family members.

The SDAC Leadership Team met a total of 11 times during FFY25 via zoom and worked together on a variety of projects. In September, October, and November 2024, the leadership team members participated in the production, editing, and distribution of videos promoting voting. The videos included information on voting rights, rules, processes, and procedures. Videos were geared towards individuals with IDD but were distributed to individuals, families, and organizations. In November 2024, the Leadership Team also traveled to Pierre to present to the Partners in Policymaking Year 33 class (SC1.4 – 17 people with IDD and family members educated

In January, the Leadership Team worked on putting together a flyer that would contain their stories that could be used at Disabilities Awareness Day in February.

In February, the Leadership Team and many self-advocates traveled to Pierre for Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol, where they met with Representatives and Senators. They took the opportunity to introduce themselves, discuss the mission of SD Advocates for Change, and practice and implement the skills they have learned being a part of the group. (SC1.4 – 44 legislators and policymakers educated).

In March 2025, the SDAC Leadership Team met via zoom to plan for the presentation they were having at the Partners in Policymaking Graduation in

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Sioux Falls. April 2025 brought several members of SDAC and the Leadership together. Advocates participated in continuing education classes, board fair, listening session for DRSD and networking. The Leadership Team also held a panel presentation at Partner's Continuing Education. The panel was well received and several attendees told DRSD staff how much they appreciated the information the panel shared. (SC1.4 - 124 people with IDD and family members educated).

May through July 2025 saw the SDAC Leadership Team discussing options for the upcoming SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities presentation in August and attendance to the SOAR Conference in October. In May, the Leadership team also discussed working with DRSD to present self-advocacy training.

In August, the Leadership Team presented twice at the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities, including a Lunch Panel with self-advocates from various groups and a separate breakout specifically about SDAC. It is important to note a member of the SDAC sits on the Planning Committee for the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities. (SC1.4: a total of 71 individuals with IDD, family members, and professionals were educated).

The SDAC Leadership Team also met in September and continued to discuss attendance and volunteer opportunities at the SOAR Conference in October, outreach trainings, and creating a podcast. There was discussion of creating mini self-advocacy meeting across South Dakota. They also began to discuss Disability Awareness Day 2026.

Throughout the year, Advocate Connection meetings were held weekly via zoom. These meetings serve as a chance to encourage new and existing members to stay connected as groups across South Dakota. Throughout these meetings, exploring ways to connect with other self-advocacy groups in their area is a common topic. Other topics include sharing information about serving on boards and councils, leaving open time to discuss timely topics, discussing advocacy skills like starting and ending conversations, coping skills, and participating in activities that develop advocacy skills.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with IDD who participated - 24

IFA 1.2 - # of family members who participated - 2

IFA 2.3 - # of people who are better able to see what they want or what is important to them - 26

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are participating now in advocacy activities - 6 who regularly show up to meetings

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IFA 2.5 - # of people who are cross-cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, or are serving in leadership positions – 3 people with IDD and 1 family members)

IFA 3.1 - # of people with IDD who are satisfied with the project – 5 based on current regular participation numbers

IFA 3.2 - # of family members who are satisfied with the project 1 based on current regular participation numbers

SC 1.4 - # of people trained or educated – 239

11. Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective)

List the expected outcomes for the activities described for the objective from the annual work plan

- a. People with IDD have increased leadership and advocacy skills.
- b. More people with IDD become members of boards and coalitions.

12. Outcomes achieved

- a. 26 current members (6 who are regularly active on the Leadership Team) have increased their leadership and advocacy skills.
- b. 3 individuals with IDD became members of boards and coalitions.

13. Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective:

The annual report should include an assessment as to the extent to which progress was made on the intended outcomes for the objective.

This objective is reported at MET.

There have been opportunities for members to expand their reach across the state, do presentations, outreach, and contact legislators and policymakers. As DRSD works with the self-advocates, the need for a newsletter is being discussed, as some advocates might prefer doing a podcast or vlog instead, causing those outcomes to change in the future.

14. Stories of people with DD whose lives are better because of Council work; stories of policy or legislative changes because of Council work. The purpose of the stories is for the Council to illustrate how the important work of Councils affects people with developmental disabilities and their families, service systems, and public policy. You can include stories from different points of view (people with I/DD, family members of people with I/DD, communities, policymakers,

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representatives of systems of services and supports affected by systems change efforts).

1. Goal # 3: Advocacy & Leadership Development

- 2. State Plan Objective 3:** Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.

Check the appropriate box for each of the questions below:

3. This Objective is:

☒ Individual & Family Advocacy ☐ System Change ☐ Capacity Building

4. This Objective is:

☐ New ☒ Ongoing ☐ Completed

5. This Objective is:

a. Fulfilling the Self-Advocacy DD Act Requirement ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Targeted Disparity ☒ Yes ☐ No

c. DD Network Collaboration ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. A demonstration project of New Approaches to Services and Supports ☐
Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Indicate project name and original start date for this effort: name of project; mm/yy

e. A demonstration of projects or activities ☐ Yes ☒ No,

If Yes, indicate project or activity name and original start date for this effort: name of project/ mm/yy

6. Stage of Implementation for systems change activities:

☐ planning ☒ implementation ☐ outcome/fully integrated

Background/Context

7. Provide an overall description of this objective:

Council members discussed the need for advocacy and leadership training for Native Americans with disabilities and their family members for several years.

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Although many Native Americans with disabilities and their family members participate in Partners in Policymaking, they have expressed a desire for training that is designed to address tribal governance and Bureau of Indian Affairs school issues that differ from most of what is shared during Partners. The Council also wanted to reach younger people with IDD as part of this process. The Center for Disabilities' Oyate Circle developed and implemented training for youth and adults with disabilities and their family members who are Native American

8. **Expected Outputs** - –List expected outputs from annual work plan
 - a. 30 Native Americans with disabilities and their families receive advocacy and leadership training.
9. **Outputs Achieved** - –List outputs achieved
 - a. 27 Native Americans with disabilities and their families received advocacy and leadership training.

Progress Report

10. **The report should include the following:**
 - A narrative progress report that cohesively describes the activities that were implemented toward achieving the objective, including **how** the identified strategy was used, how the activity was implemented, challenges to achieving the objective and unexpected benefits.
 - For system change activities, include a description of the stage of implementation (planning, initiation, implementation, outcome/fully integrated) of the system change initiative.
 - All narratives must describe what numbers make up the performance measures number for the activities being reported in the narrative.
 - A summary of evaluation activities to monitor progress and impact of council supported activities for the objective; data collected during the year, data sources, and data collection methods; (logic model and evaluation plan may be attached to the report).

The Center for Disabilities' Oyate Circle is led by respected Native American leaders. Oyate Circle developed a curriculum and provided training for youth and adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities who are Native American. The curriculum and trainings have been adapted as needed.

The Native American Advocacy and Leadership Program has added 3 new members to the Advisory Council, which informs and participates in the development of training activities for the program, bringing the total membership up to 10 for FFY25. They were able to partner with the Todd

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County School District to present the Oyate Circle ALFA (Adventure for Leadership and Fulfillment with Access) Camp at the 2025 SPED Conference.

Work continues to integrate the Charting the LifeCourse Framework Philosophy and tools into the culturally designed training sessions. The "Indigenized" LifeCourse materials have been proven effective for the ALFA Youth Camps, the Pre-Employment Trainings Service programs under State and Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

During the dates of this reporting period, Oyate Circle was able to conduct one Advocacy and Leadership Training in July 2025. This was held at Agency Village in the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Building. Oyate Circle staff were joined by Brenda Smith and the SWO Tribal Voc Rehab Team to present on living a good life with disabilities, setting goals, and where to find resources. The Oyate Circle's partners - the DD Council, Call to Freedom, and TSLP, had vending booths and each had time to speak to the attendees. Attendees left with Indigenous Life Course tools that they have completed, direct contact information from various agencies, and understanding the importance of self-advocacy. 12 of the 27 attendees completed satisfaction surveys.

IFA 1.1 - # of people with DD who participated in Council Grant supported activities - 7

IFA 1.2 - # of family members who participated in Council grant supported activities - 20

One training session was held on one reservation.

IFA 2.3 - # of people who are better able to say what they want or say what is important to them - 8 family members

IFA 2.4 - # of people who are participating now in advocacy activities - 5 family members

IFA 3.1 - people with IDD who are satisfied with project activity - 1 person with IDD completed survey, 1 satisfied (100%)

IFA 3.2 - family members satisfied with a project activity - 11 family members completed the survey, 11 members satisfied (100%)

11. **Expected Outcomes (matches the expected outcomes from the annual work plan as it relates to the objective)**

- a. Native Americans with disabilities and their families receive information and education that is beneficial to them when accessing services.

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12. **Outcomes achieved**

- a. Native Americans with disabilities and their families participated in culturally appropriate training on advocacy and leadership.

13. **Progress towards achieving outcomes for overall objective:**

The annual report should include an assessment as to the extent to which progress was made on the intended outcomes for the objective.

Progress for this objective is MET. Progress was made in providing training in leadership and advocacy to Native Americans with disabilities and their families. There were some issues with scheduling trainings during this reporting period due to program director conflicts, however, there are scheduled events that are set to happen that occurred after this reporting period but before the end of their project cycle, that will help the grantee to progress on their outcomes.

14. Additionally, include stories of culturally diverse people with developmental disabilities whose lives are better because of Council work on this activity (e.g., became better advocates for themselves and others, became more connected to the community). Stories of policy or legislative changes that happened as a result of Council individual advocacy work that are likely to positively impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities or that will prevent a potential negative impact (e.g., created deleted, refined programs and/or legislation, reallocated use of funds, organizational systems change as a result of evidence-based practices).

1. Goal #3 – Advocacy & Leadership Development – Narrative

In this section, for each goal reported for this reporting period, provide an overall cohesive description of: the extent to which progress is being made in achieving the intended outcomes of the Goal for the reporting year the extent to which each goal was or was not achieved for the reporting year, where applicable, factors that impeded goal achievement for the reporting year needs that require substantive state plan amendment (goal only)

Goal - By 2026, the DD Network (Council, Disability Rights South Dakota, and USD Center for Disabilities) will collaborate so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have information, training, support, and opportunities to effectively advocate and impact systems change and participate in cross-disability coalitions.

Rating Scale used – No Progress, Some Progress, Satisfactory Progress, and Excellent Progress/Met

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The progress for this goal was excellent and outcomes met for FFY 25. The Council looks forward to continuing to provide opportunities for advocacy and leadership development for people with IDD and their families in the coming years. Challenges this year included scheduling conflicts for the Oyate Circle in the beginning of the project that have led to slower than expected results in the first three quarters of the grant, however, there is much work in preparation for the fourth quarter. Advocates for Change has presented to several entities and continues to work to recruit new members and explore new ways to reach stakeholders.

There is no goal amendment needs at this time.

4 Year Overview (FY 2025)

A description of how the Council will use and build from knowledge gained and progress made to move forward in the next state plan cycle (FY 2022-2026).

Expected outcomes for this goal include more people with IDD and their families are actively advocating for themselves or their family members and agencies/organizations providing or developing services for people with IDD include people with IDD and their family members as participating members of their boards and work groups.

The Council has expressed the importance of continuing to support advocacy and leadership training for individuals with IDD and their families. There is strong member desire to continue to support the objectives and carry the work forward into the next state plan to ensure that continued growth in building advocacy capacity of individuals with IDD and family members keeps occurring, which will help promote change throughout the DD system in South Dakota.

5 Year Overview (FY2026)

For the final PPR (FY2021) of this state plan cycle, provide an overall analysis of the outcomes achieved during the five-year state plan cycle. The description should include the extent to which diverse stakeholders are satisfied with council activities that promote self-determination and community participation for individuals with disabilities and families, results of other types of information gathering such as focus groups, surveys, or other feedback or input methods with individuals with developmental disabilities and families and major accomplishments and factors impeding goal achievement (if applicable)

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Section IV.B. Individual & Family Advocacy Performance Measure (By GOAL)

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Race/Ethnicity	#	%
White, alone	72	
Black or African American alone	0	
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	27	
Hispanic/Latino	0	
Asian alone	0	
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	0	
Two or more races or Race unknown	91	
Gender	#	%
Female	45	
Male	62	
Other		
Category	#	%
Individual with DD	97	
Family Member	119	
Geographical	#	%
Urban	72	
Rural	52	

I. Output Measures

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Objective	IFA 1.1 The number of people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems	IFA 1.2 The number of family members who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and/or systems
Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.	66	99
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.	24	2
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.	7	20
Denominator: TOTAL # of Output Respondents (this is the total number of people responding to a survey):	97	121

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II. Outcome Measures

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Performance Measures	Percent (%)
IFA 2.1 After participation in Council supported activities, <u>the percent of people with developmental disabilities</u> who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.	NA
IFA 2.2 After participation in Council supported activities, <u>the percent of families</u> who report <u>increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work</u> .	NA

IFA 2.3: The number (#) of people who are better able to say what they want/say what is important to them

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.	17	27
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.	24	2
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.	0	8
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	41	37

IFA 2.4: The number (#) of people who are participating in advocacy activities

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.	17	19
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.	6	0
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.	0	5
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	23	24

IFA 2.5: The number (#) of people who are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions.

Objective	# People with developmental disabilities	# Family Members
Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.	2	6
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.	3	1
Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.	0	0
Total # of Sub-Outcome Respondents:	5	7

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IFA

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Satisfaction Metric	Percent (%)
IFA 3 The percent of people satisfied with a project activity	93% (82/88)
IFA 3.1 The percentage (%) of people with developmental disabilities who are satisfied with a project activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals: Divide the # of positive responses by PWDD to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.1. denominator) 	97% (37/38)
IFA 3.2 The percentage (%) of family members satisfied with a project activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Members: Divide the # of positive responses by family members to this question by the number of surveys received (IFA 1.2 denominator) 	90% (45/50)

Section IV.C. System Change Performance Measures (By Goal)

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Objective: Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	2
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	2
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	245
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	0
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	256
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	0

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Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.

Output Measure	Number (#)
SC 1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed	0
SC 1.2 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed	0
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created	0
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council activities	1
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created	0
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council activities	0
SC 1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices created and/or supported	1
SC 1.4 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives	27
SC 1.5 The number of Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved	1

Systems Change SC2: Outcome Measures

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Outcome Measures	Number (#)
SC 2.1 The number of Council efforts <i>that led to the creation or improvement of best or promising practices, policies, procedures, statute or regulation changes. (sub-measures 2.1.1; 2.1.3)</i>	0
SC 2.2 The number of Council efforts <i>that were implemented</i> to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. <i>(sub-measures 2.1.2; 2.1.4)</i>	1 - Partners

III. Sub-Outcome Measures

Goal: Advocacy & Leadership

Objective: Each year of the state plan the DD Network will support advocacy and leadership training for 40 youth and adults with IDD and 20 family members or guardians.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	1 - Partners

Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will support the SD Advocates for Change (SDAC) Network and Leadership Team to provide 2 training events for 30 people with IDD, to increase self-advocacy and leadership skills and encourage and support 2 people with IDD to participate as members of cross-disability boards and councils.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

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Objective: Each year of the state plan, the Council will support advocacy and leadership training for 10 Native Americans with disabilities and 20 family members.

Outcome Measure	Number (#)
SC 2.1.1 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes improved as a result of systems change.	0
SC 2.1.2 Number of <u>policy, procedure, statute or regulation</u> changes implemented.	0
SC 2.1.3 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> improved as a result of systems change activities.	0
SC 2.1.4 Number of <u>promising and/or best practices</u> implemented	0

SECTION V: COUNCIL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE: In this section, Councils are to identify the obligation and liquidation status for the 3 FFY of funds [Section 124(c)(5)(B) and 125(c)(8)]

Council is its own DSA: No

Fiscal Year 2025

Reporting Period 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	\$ 526,312.00
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	\$ 0.00
Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	\$ 37,961.46
Federal Share of Expenditures	\$ 151,454.70
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	\$ 19,952.67
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	\$ 354,904.63
Match Required	\$ 175,437.33
Match Met	\$ 37,961.46

Fiscal Year 2024

Reporting Period 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	\$ 526,120.00
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	
Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	\$ 37,239.18
Federal Share of Expenditures	\$ 526,120.00
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	\$ 0.00
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	\$ 0.00
Match Required	\$ 175,373.33
Match Met	\$ 175,373.33

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Fiscal Year 2023

Reporting Period 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2023

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	\$ 527,570.00
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	\$ 0.00
Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	\$ 31,002.42
Federal Share of Expenditures	\$ 527,570.00
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	\$ 0.00
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	\$ 0.00
Match Required	\$ 175,856.67
Match Met	\$ 175,856.67

Dollars leveraged for the reporting year being reported: \$ 0.00

SECTION VI: MEASURES OF COLLABORATION

PURPOSE: In this section, Councils are to discuss collaborative efforts with specific DD Network Partners and other collaborations separate from the planned DD Network Collaboration goal/objective.

1. Identify the critical issues/barriers affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in your State that the Council and the P&A, the Council and the UCEDD, the Council and other collaborations may have worked on during the reporting period.

There were several issues the the DD network worked on in this reporting period, including:

- a. Need for additional self-advocate leaders, trainers, and peer mentors across the state.
- b. Have a greater presence in tribal communities / enhanced involvement of Native Americans with disabilities and their families in network activities and events.
- c. Lack of knowledge about current DD system and related topics for professionals, parents, and people with IDD.
- d. Mental health services for people with IDD.
- e. 2025 South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities

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2. Identify the Area of Emphasis collaboratively addressed by the DD Council and Collaborators

Area of Emphasis [Check Applicable area(s)]			Recreation
X	Quality Assurance	X	Quality of Life
	Education & Early Intervention		Other – Assistive Technology
	Child Care	X	Other – Cultural Diversity
X	Health	X	Other – Leadership
	Employment		Other – please specify
	Housing		Other – please specify
	Transportation		Other – please specify

In this section, Councils are to discuss collaborative work that occurred during the reporting period with a specific DD Network partner and/or other collaborators that has not been reported in the previous sections of this report.

Describe the issue or barrier worked on, the area(s) of emphasis addressed, the collaborative strategies used, the Council's role and responsibilities, any problems encountered, and unexpected benefits of this collaborative effort. Also, indicate if Council staff can provide technical assistance or expertise to other Councils in this area. Do not report the planned DD Network Collaboration goal/objective in this section.

The barrier worked on was the lack of knowledge about the current DD system and related topics for professionals, parents, and people with IDD. The DD Network works with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and other agencies / organizations in South Dakota to offer a bi-annual conference. This year marked the conference's 3rd offering. In 2021, the first event (in-person) had 240 attendees, and in 2023, the second conference had 307 attendees (20 people with disabilities, 64 family members, and 223 service providers/others). In 2025, there were 320 attendees, noting that 16 people with disabilities and 51 family members among them.

A planning committee met monthly throughout the 18 months prior to the event to ensure quality break-out sessions, keynote speakers, and overall success of the conference. This year's conference included sessions on Indigenous languages and complex communication needs, assisted decision making and guardianship, financial planning, leadership and advocacy programs, co-occurring IDD and other mental health problems, Charting the LifeCourse, and much more. Each year, the conference awards are given out, including awards to a person with IDD, an employer, and a Leader in Change.

As with the last two conferences, the Center for Disabilities submitted a grant request to the Council for support of this activity (with a match provided by the South Dakota

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Division of Developmental Disabilities). Additionally, staff from Center for Disabilities and Disability Rights South Dakota Staff participated in the planning work group and assisted with the promotion of the event.

The Council director participated in the monthly planning work group and this conference was supported financially by the Council. Council staff and some Council members attended the conference. Further, the Council supported a few individuals with IDD and/or their family members to attend the conference through the Council's Travel Assistance program. Council director also held a booth to share information with attendees.

No major problems were encountered as a result of this collaboration, although, organizers were a bit disappointed in the low response rate of the surveys at the end. As organizers prepare for the 2027 conference, discussions are already underway about ways to improve response rates.

The event was successful. All groups involved in the planning and implementation of the conference showed the collaboration of all the entities who were involved. Relationships continue to develop through the DD Network, the Division of DD, and other entities.