

Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities

Proposed

State Plan Goals and Objectives for 2027-2031

Goal 1, Access to special services – The Council will improve access to specialized services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by recommending changes in eligibility criteria that reduce gaps between service silos; by developing improved tools and systems whereby individuals find appropriate services and supports; and by recommending improvements to behavioral health services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Objective 1.1, Eligibility for State Services and Supports – The Council will reduce gaps in eligibility for Home and Community Based Services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Connecticut by collaborating and coordinating with other state agencies, councils, committees, cross disability coalitions, policy boards, and advisory boards, to inform policymakers about promising practices, policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations that would implement more inclusive functional eligibility criteria.

Objective 1.2, Navigation – The Council will improve access to services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities in Connecticut by developing tools and processes to navigate across and among public and private departments, agencies, and programs; by outreach and training to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; by facilitating interagency collaboration and coordination; and by recommending such navigation tools, processes, coordination, and training to policymakers.

Objective 1.3, Behavioral Health – The Council will eliminate barriers and improve access to specialized behavioral health services for individuals with developmental disabilities by collaborating with individuals, their families, behavioral health providers, hospitals, advocates, higher education institutions, and appropriate regulatory and professional channels to compile a guide to resources and promising practices; by outreach and training to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, healthcare providers and other service providers; and by recommending tools and practices to government and industry bodies.

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Goal 2, Self Advocacy – The Council will support self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with developmental disabilities; provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders; and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability coalitions by creating an Advocacy Academy; by promoting health and wellness among self-advocates; and by developing better organizational skills among self-advocates.

Objective 2.1, Advocacy Academy – The Council will develop and pilot an Advocacy Academy, in collaboration with self-advocates, cross disability coalitions, and like-minded advocacy organizations that include the range of developmental disabilities, by outreach, education, and training in housing, transportation, employment programs, health, wellness, and independent living skills to increase advocacy, knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, ability to say what they need and what services and supports they need and what is important to them.

Objective 2.2, Health and Wellness – The Council will increase knowledge and awareness among individuals with developmental disabilities of diet, nutrition, exercise, access to healthcare, mental health, social connectivity and independent living skills by outreach and training, in collaboration and coordination with other advocacy organizations, medical societies, educational institutions, and state agencies.

Objective 2.3, Organization Development – The Council will increase the capacity and sustainability of self-advocacy organizations by outreach, training, and technical assistance to self-advocacy groups for developmental disabilities that would include business and financial planning, organizing, leading, controls, communications, collaboration, and coalition building.

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Goal 3, Culture change and access to generic services – The Council will improve access to generic community services by recommending accommodations for developmental disabilities in the delivery of general healthcare; by recommending best practices for engaging and serving neurodivergent individuals; and by eliminating barriers and increasing access to competitive integrated employment, on-demand transportation, and affordable, accessible, supported housing.

Objective 3.1, Access to Healthcare – The Council will improve access to generic healthcare, especially primary care, urgent care, and emergency care by outreach and training to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; by technical assistance to healthcare providers; by interagency collaboration and coordination including but not limited to the State Department of Public Health, the State Department of Social Services, and the State Insurance Department; and by informing policymakers about promising practices, policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations that would implement accommodations for developmental disabilities in the delivery of generic healthcare.

Objective 3.2, Trauma-Informed Accommodations and Neuro-Affirmation – The Council will eliminate barriers and increase access to community services by neurodivergent individuals by outreach, training, and technical assistance to businesses and public agencies about best practices for engaging and serving neurodivergent individuals, and by informing policymakers about promising practices, policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations that would implement trauma-informed accommodations and neuro-affirmation in transactions with neurodivergent individuals.

Objective 3.3, The Triad: Employment, Transportation, and Housing – The Council will eliminate barriers and increase access to competitive integrated employment, on-demand transportation, and affordable, accessible, supported housing by providing technical assistance and facilitating collaboration with business associations, public transportation providers, and public housing programs, and by informing policymakers about promising practices, policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations that would implement supported employment, affordable on-demand transportation, and supported housing.