

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



9,500+ IOWANS

make up the Iowans With Disabilities In Action network



4,200+

individuals receive infoNET

ANNUAL SURVEY Results

Websites: 95% of respondents are satisfied with the Iowa DD Council network websites.

Information/Training: 50% said information/training about issues, being an effective advocate, and developing communications were helpful.

Voting: 39% said the Iowa DD Council helped them encourage another person to be more involved in the voting process. **76%** of respondents said they are more likely to vote in upcoming elections as a result of being involved with the Iowa DD Council.

Legislative Guide: 80% of those who used infoNET's Guide to the Iowa Legislature said it was helpful.



Elected Officials: 45% of respondents talked with their elected officials about an issue that was important to them in 2021.

Topics discussed with elected officials:

- Childcare (affordability, caregiver shortage)
- Direct care workforce (funding, shortages)
- Employment
- HCBS supports and services
- Medicaid
- Mental health funding
- Voting laws and accessibility



Communication: 90% of respondents thought their conversation was effective. **41%** saw a change as a result of their conversation.

COVID-19 Education

#LookingForward

The DD Council launched a COVID-19 vaccine confidence campaign. The goal was to educate Iowans about the vaccine and provide resources to help individuals with disabilities make the best choices for themselves.

- **10**-week campaign
- Created **8** videos
- Reached **767,000±** Iowans across numerous platforms



"I want people to know, don't be nervous, don't be scared. If there's pain in your arm [after the vaccine], it's okay. You can feel a little bit, and then after you feel a little bit it goes away and then you can go back to what you normally do!" – Robert Fisher

"I decided to get the COVID-19 vaccine because I wanted to make sure I stayed healthy, I wanted to make sure the people I work with and the people I live with are healthy." - Brady Werger

LEADERSHIP and Advocacy

Graduates: 19 students graduated from the 2021 Youth Leadership Academy.

Learning Opportunities: 29 virtual events were hosted to help people stay up to date with advocacy opportunities and legislative changes.

Monthly Capitol Chats gave advocates the chance to learn about policies impacting Iowans with disabilities. These are great opportunities to ask questions and find out what's happening at the Capitol.

- Capitol Chats: **7**
- Attendees: **200+**



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EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

Grants: Employment and HCBS provider grants were offered to promote and increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Iowa DD Council partnered with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to provide customized employment training. This approach to employment is designed to increase competitive, integrated job placement.

- 25 IVRS counselors participated
- 40 job candidates participated
- 9 community providers trained
- 10 job candidates found employment

COMMUNITY Support



A grant of **\$93,505** was awarded to the Iowa Department of Transportation to invest in:

- Ames Transit Agency (CyRide), "Automatic Passenger Counter Technology Project"
- Marshalltown Municipal Transit, "Pink Route"
- PeopleRides, "Healthy Accessibility Program"
- Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA), "ICF and HCBS Transportation"
- Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA), "Barriers to Transit Equity for People with Disabilities"



MAKE YOUR MARK! Conference

Attendance: 167 in-person 48 virtual

Testimonials: "Felt inspired, encouraged, and not alone."

"It gave me the confidence to speak up and share my experiences."

"The messages encouraged me to find my passion and help others. Never underestimate my ability to influence the world around me."



NEW in 2021

6 new members | **5** year state plan | **3** new goals

GOAL #1 Advocacy: Develop strong advocates and leaders who create the change they want.

GOAL #2 Systems Change: Improve policy and practice that positively impacts people with disabilities.

GOAL #3 Capacity Building: Strengthen communities to support people with disabilities.