

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power



The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council will work to create change *with* and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can *live, work, learn, and play* in the community of their choosing.

What does the Iowa DD Council do?

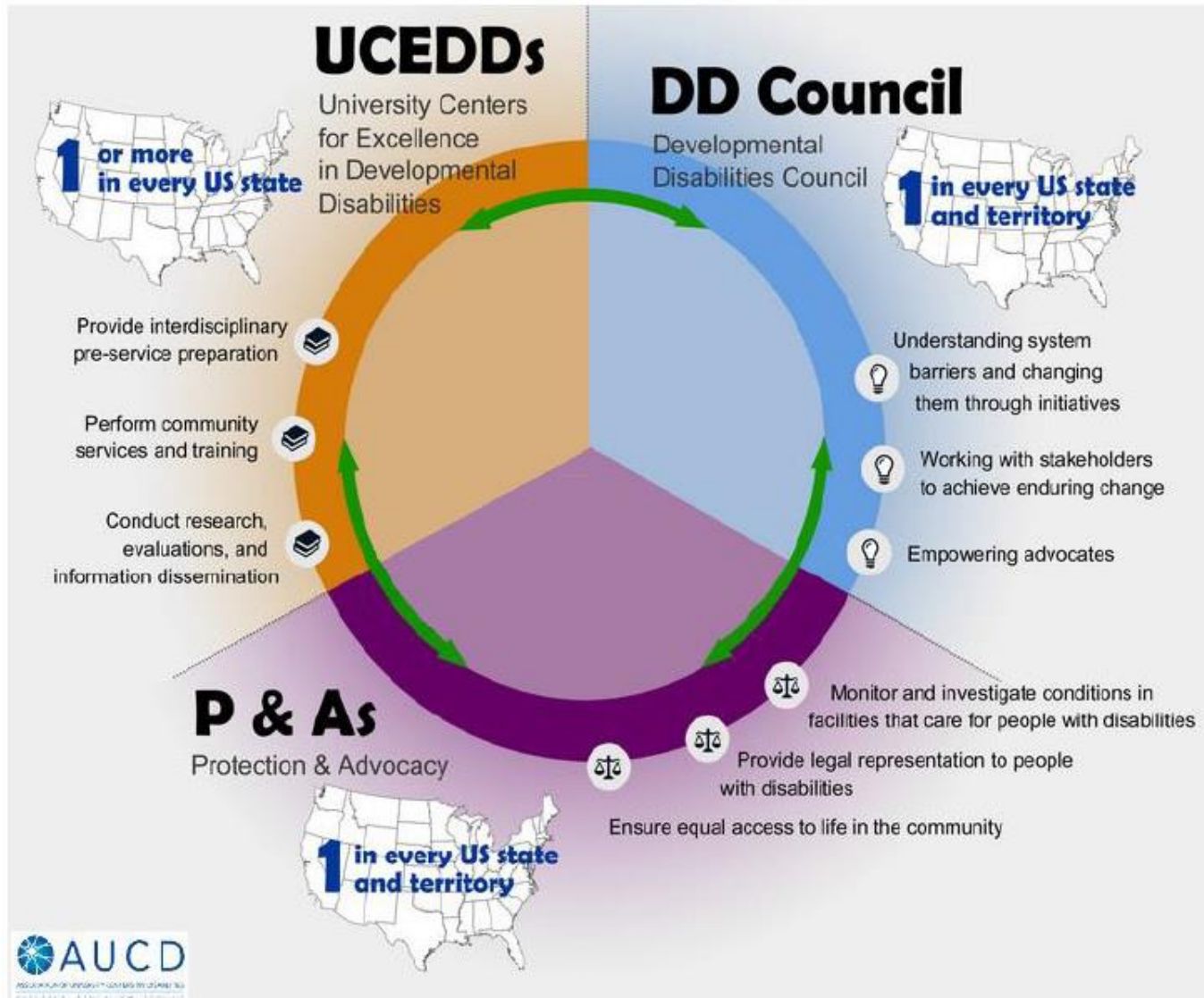


- The Iowa DD Council receives money from the federal government – Administration on Community Living
- With that money we advocate for services and supports so that Iowans with disabilities can have a better life!
- We also help people with disabilities be their own **ADVOCATE!**

The Developmental Disability (DD) Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

- The DD Act of 2000 Public Law 106-402 established a set of programs to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities through **capacity building** and **systems change, advocacy** and the enforcement and protection of civil rights
- These programs are the state DD Councils, Disability Rights Centers (Disability Rights Iowa) and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Center for Disabilities and Development)- sometimes called the DD Network





The Developmental Disability (DD) Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

Congress finds that disability is a **natural part** of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with disabilities to:

- Live independently
- Have control and choice over their own lives
- Fully participate in and contribute to their communities



Who are we?

The Iowa DD Council are volunteers dedicated to creating change

- 24 members appointed by the Governor
- 60% people with Disabilities or family members
- People who work for the state government.
 - DRI, UCED, Dept. Education, Dept. Aging (HHS), Child Health Specialists Clinics, VR, Medicaid County/local reps, Providers



Keeping Advocates Informed!

Resources for civic and political participation for people with disabilities and their family members



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Iowa Legislative Session Ends

Legislators wrapped up their work for the year in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 20. It took them 104 days to introduce 1,617 new bills and pass an \$8.9 billion budget for the upcoming year. That is just a 4% increase over the current year's budget. There is some good news in this year's budget for Iowans with disabilities and the individuals who support them.

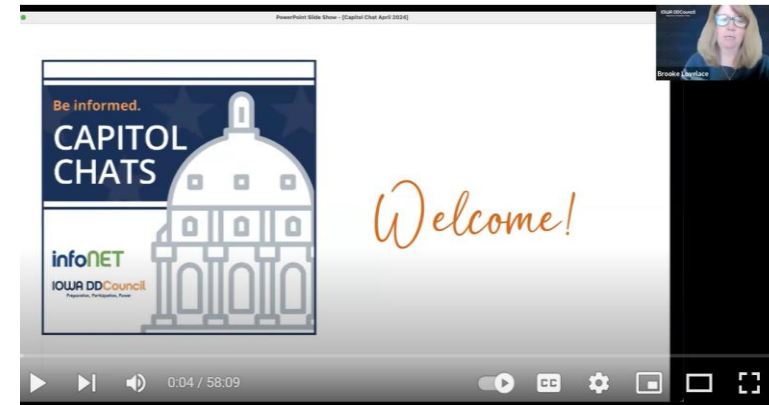
One out of every ten bills introduced this year made it through the entire legislative process. Legislators sent 169 bills to the Governor and she has signed about half of them into law. Governor Reynolds has until May 20 to sign or veto bills. She has one other option for budget bills. She can take out parts of a budget bill while still signing the rest of it into law. This is called a "line item veto" and it is only allowed in budget bills.

Iowa DD Council's Bill Tracker (iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker) is updated as soon as the Governor takes action on bills. Check it to see which bills made it through the session, which bills did not make it, and which bills are signed into law. You may want to work on bills that did not make it through the process next year.

WHAT'S NEW

- BUDGET NEWS**
There is a lot to celebrate in this year's budget.
- POLICY NEWS**
Check out the bills that passed, those that did not, and the ones ready for action again in 2025.
- ELECTIONS & RETIREMENTS**
Sixteen legislators are retiring and seven face primaries.
- CARLYN'S CORNER**
Coming to the Capitol: The Power of Presence and Passion

<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/infonet>



Be informed.
CAPITOL CHATS

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Welcome!

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Working together to create an Iowa where
people with disabilities LEARN, WORK, and THRIVE.

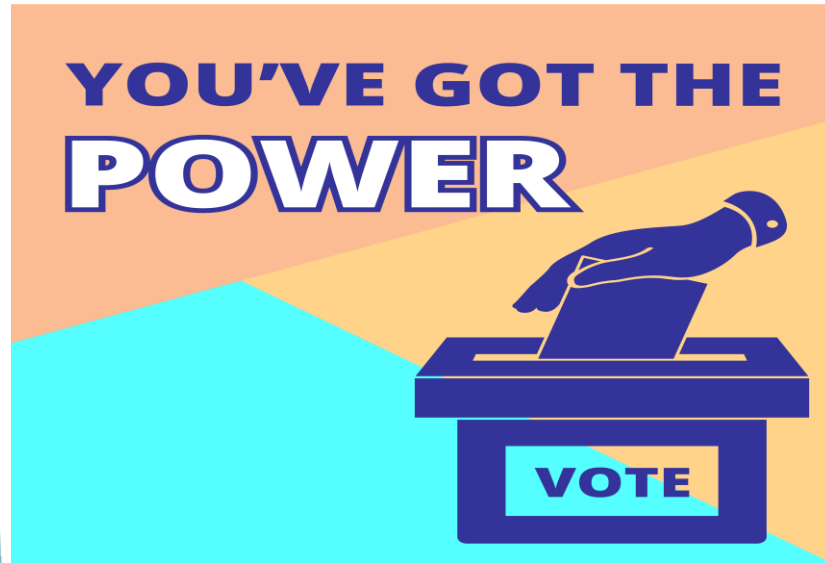
PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

2024

ADVOCACY AT THE CAPITOL

Putting Self-Advocacy into Practice





If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as similar people without disabilities, there would be an additional 2.0 million voters.

The Iowa DD Council wants to see more people with disabilities **vote!** We want **people with disabilities** to help us make this happen.

<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/vote-grant-application>

YLA helped me learn skills I can use to be on Student Council. I am serving my community at UI REACH at the University of Iowa.” – Simon, YLA Graduate 2023





BECOME A VOICE THAT CREATES CHANGE

Do you want to learn about being a leader? If so, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is for you! YLA is a way to connect with peers with disabilities and learn leadership skills. Spend two hours per day for five days this summer and gain skills for a lifetime. All sessions are virtual and FREE!

At YLA you will learn:

- How to become a leader,
- How to advocate for you and others,
- What you can do, and
- What you are capable of

<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/yla>



MYM!

2024

GROW

WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED



<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/mym-conference>

Iowa DD Council Staff



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