



The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council will work to create change **with** and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, and 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!

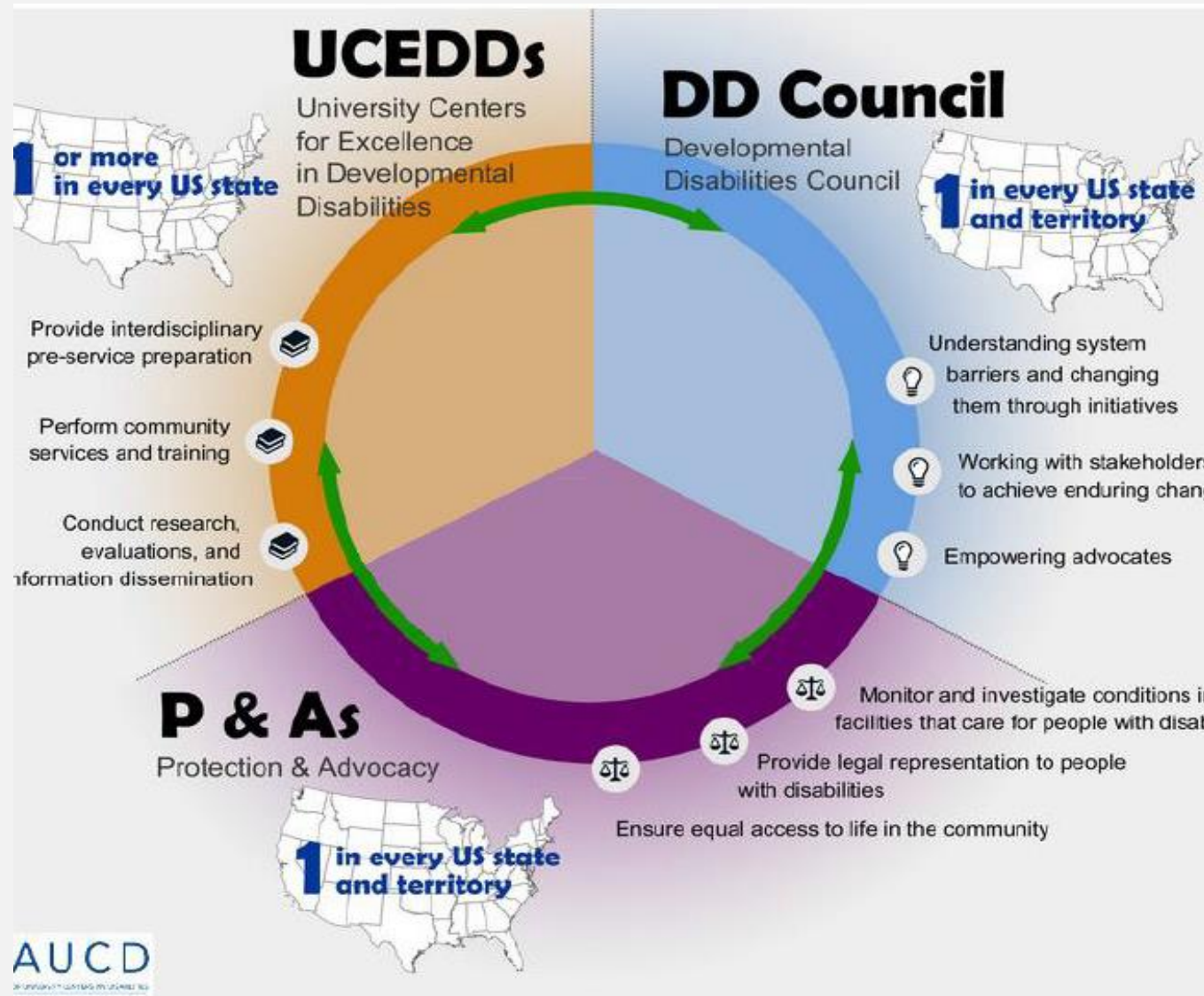
The Developmental Disability (DD) Assistance and Bill of Rights Act

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

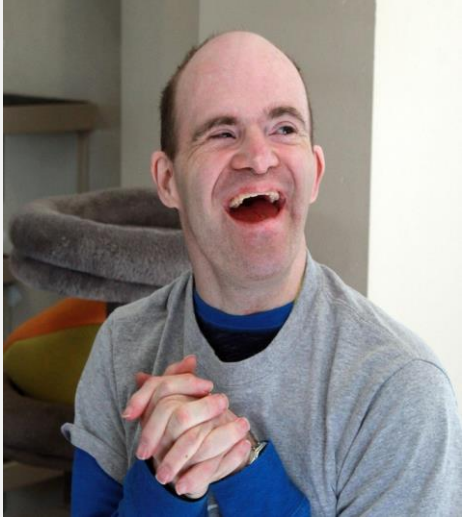
These programs are the state DD Councils, Disability Rights Centers (Disability Rights Iowa), and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Center for Disabilities and Development).

These are 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 is a group of 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
 - Disability Rights Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development, Dept. Education, Health and Human Services Aging Bureau, Child Health Specialists Clinics, Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid County/local reps, Providers



State Plan

5-YEAR PLAN

IOWA DD Council
Preparation, Participation, Power

A PLAN FOR PROGRESS 2022-2026

ADVOCACY GOAL:

Develop Strong Advocates
& Leaders Who Create the
Change They Want to See

SYSTEMS CHANGE GOAL:

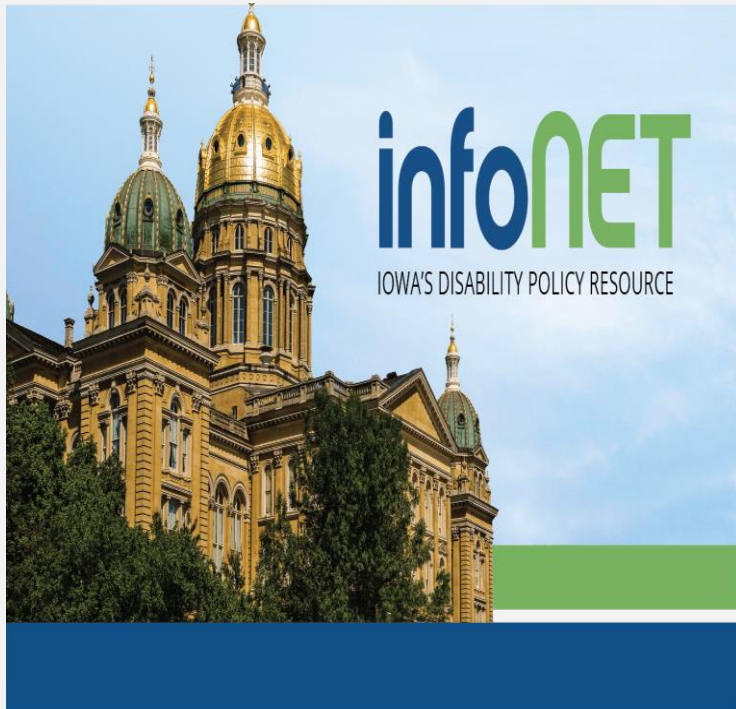
Improve Policy & Practice
That Positively Impacts
People With Disabilities

CAPACITY BUILDING

GOAL: Strengthen
Communities to Support
People With Disabilities

Keeping Advocates Informed!

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



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BILL OF THE WEEK
HSB 198/SF 2045:
Work Without Worry

Changes Medicaid asset and income limits to allow employed individuals with disabilities to work more hours or earn more income while keeping their Medicaid coverage.

BILL STATUS

Assigned to Committee:
House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees

Recent Actions:

- Introduced in Senate on January 16, 2024.
- Introduced in House on February 22, 2023.
- Passed a House subcommittee on January 30, 2024.

TAKE ACTION ON THIS BILL



SCAN QR CODE

IMPACT ON IOWANS

The health insurance and services many Iowans with disabilities get through Medicaid allows them to work. If they work too many hours or are paid too much for that work, they lose this insurance and support. This bill increases how much money a person can earn and save. More Iowans with disabilities can work and live independently in the community.

QUICK FACTS

- This bill ensures that most work earnings do not disqualify employed individuals with disabilities from Medicaid.
- This bill **increases the income limit** to 450% of the Federal Poverty Level, counts only the income of the individual (not household income), and **removes the asset limit**.
- This allows employed individuals to save money, own a home, get married, and have **reliable care** without losing Medicaid coverage.
- The **unemployment rate** for Iowans with disabilities in 2021 was 8.9%, compared to 3.6% for those without disabilities.
- This bill aligns with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** goals by fostering independence and self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

Bill Creator
REP. JOSH TUREK



Josh Turek represents Iowa's 20th district in the House of Representatives. As a Paralympic athlete, he won gold in 2016 and 2020, bronze in 2012. Turek was born with spina bifida. He is an advocate for disabled individuals and is the first permanently disabled member of the Iowa State Legislature.

CONNECT WITH US:

iowaddcouncil.org | info@iowaddcouncil.org | (800) 452-1936



Working together with
policymakers to create an Iowa
where people with disabilities
can learn, work, and thrive.

2025

Public Policy Priorities

ADVOCACY AT THE CAPITOL

Putting Self-Advocacy into Practice





YLA | YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



YOU'VE GOT THE POWER



BY VOTING

YOU CHOOSE
leaders who share
your values.

YOU CHOOSE
the kind of
government you want.

YOU CHOOSE
what's best for
your life.

YOU CHOOSE
what's best for
your community.

One vote does matter!

- ★ Voting is how we make decisions for our country, state, and communities.
- ★ Voting decides who runs our government.
- ★ Voting is used to pass laws we believe in.
- ★ Voting is using your voice for change.
- ★ Voting is advocacy.

Five steps to becoming an emPOWERed voter!

STEP 1 **P**

PREPARE. Get registered!

STEP 2 **O**

ORGANIZE. Plan where and how you will vote.

STEP 3 **W**

WATCH. Look closely at who is running.

STEP 4 **E**

EDUcate yourself on the issues.

STEP 5 **R**

REACH OUT and ASK QUESTIONS.

The Iowa Secretary of State has all the information you need to vote in Iowa.
Visit sos.iowa.gov or call 1-888-SOS-VOTE to learn more.

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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DD COUNCIL NETWORK

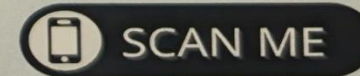
iowaddcouncil.org/join

BENEFITS

GET FULL ACCESS TO:

- infoNET
- Disability Issue Information
- Voting Information
- Candidate Information
- Political Party Information
- Legislative Contact Information
- Advocacy Resources

Join today!



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Council Staff

Please help us develop our new State Plan! [Take our Survey!](#)



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