



Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)
Margaret O'Neill Building
410 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

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2027-2031 Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) Strategic Plan, Draft 1

For public comment

Summary/Purpose:

Beginning in the summer of 2025, the DDC began strategic planning and outreach activities to gather public feedback for its next Five-Year Strategic Plan. Activities included public forums, focus groups, and surveys which were widely distributed. The Council met at a Strategic Planning Retreat on January 7, 2026, to review all the feedback and data collected from the public regarding what the Council should focus on in its 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. With a quorum of Council members being present at the both the Margaret O'Neill Building and online via Zoom, the Council worked together to create the draft goals and objectives based on the public's feedback. The draft goals and objectives are listed below. This version of the goals and objectives was approved by the Council for public release on January 14, 2026. This begins a 45-day public comment period, ending on **February 28, 2026**.

Public Comment:

Public comment is encouraged and can be submitted by email to Stefanie Lancaster at Stefanie.lancaster@delaware.gov, by phone at 302-739-7193, by fax at 302-739-2015, or by U.S. Mail at: 410 Federal Street, Suite 2, Dover, DE 19901. **The deadline to submit public comment is February 28, 2026.** The Council will review all public comments and decide whether to revise or not revise the draft strategic plan. If significant changes are made, a second 45-day public comment period of a second draft will take place.

Based on citizen feedback received during the Council's preliminary public outreach activities, the DDC's 2027-2031 State Plan Goals and Objectives will focus on the following areas of emphasis:

1. **Self-Advocacy**
2. **Employment**
3. **Housing**
4. **Healthcare**
5. **Education and Early Intervention**



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1. Self-Advocacy

Draft Self-Advocacy Goal:

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will foster an environment that empowers and supports Delawareans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to have agency in their lives.

Draft Self-Advocacy Objectives:

- 1.1-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will offer training and support to individuals with disabilities and their families regarding their rights, as well as effective strategies to express their needs and preferences.

- 1.2-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will provide training and support to community organizations who support individuals with disabilities and their families regarding their rights as well as effective strategies to express their needs and preferences.



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2. Employment

Draft Employment Goal:

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council will foster an environment that empowers and supports Delawareans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to seek, gain and retain vocational opportunities.

Draft Employment Objectives:

- 2.1-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will provide information and resources regarding vocational opportunities including benefits planning and services available to individuals with disabilities in Delaware.

- 2.2-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will provide information and resources for employers regarding their recruitment, hiring and retention process to better support individuals with disabilities.



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3. Housing

Draft Housing Goal:

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council will foster an environment that facilitates all current and future housing stock can accommodate the needs of all Delawareans in every community.

Draft Housing Objectives:

- 3.1-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will foster awareness of the characteristics and benefits of accessible living environments.

- 3.2-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will foster awareness of the needed service infrastructure to support community-based living.



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4. Healthcare

Draft Healthcare Goal:

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will utilize its advocacy tools to promote accessible and person-centered healthcare for Delawareans with disabilities among all stakeholders.

Draft Healthcare Objectives:

- 4.1-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will invest its efforts to ensure a robust, appropriately educated healthcare workforce to meet the needs of all Delawareans regardless of disability across the lifespan and in all communities.

- 4.2-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will invest its efforts to ensure a robust, diverse, and accessible healthcare infrastructure across the state regardless of age, disability, or need.

5. Education and Early Intervention

Draft Education and Early Intervention Goal:

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council will advocate for the Delaware educational system to provide empowering educational services for individuals with disabilities that presume capacity and ability.

Draft Education and Early Intervention Objectives:

- 5.1-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will collaborate with strategic partners to develop and/or share resources about educational supports, independent life planning, and accommodations in higher education so that individuals with disabilities have successful educational outcomes across the lifespan.

- 5.2-** The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will promote access to effective literacy (reading and written expression) instruction for all students.