



Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

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2017-2021 State Plan



**Helping Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Live Independently and Participate Fully in the Community**

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Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

What We Do

The NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council mission is to enhance the lives of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and their families by working with key stakeholders to develop, demonstrate, and implement innovative ideas and culturally competent programs that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

Our State Plan

Our work is guided by a five-year plan called the “State Plan.”

The 2017-2021 State Plan addresses changing state and national policies, is guided by stakeholder input, and acknowledges shifts in ID/DD services. Our State Plan consists of goals and objectives that the NYS DDPC plans to work towards over the next five years.

This document outlines the NYS DDPC State Plan for years 2017–2021.

State Plan Development: Public Input

What goes into developing the State Plan?

The NYS DDPC spent two years conducting research, which included gathering public input about the barriers that people with ID/DD and their families experience in NYS. Some of the strategies used to collect public input are outlined below.

Outreach and Engagement Strategies

Online Survey

NYS DDPC administered a survey in multiple languages in 2015. The NYS DDPC received 685 responses.



In-Person Survey

NYS DDPC conducted a poll at the SANYS 2015 annual conference, the state's largest self-advocacy conference. Over 250 self-advocates participated.



Focus Groups

NYS DDPC conducted 12 focus groups across NYS with participants from diverse communities. Over 150 people participated.



The public input provided to the NYS DDPC highlighted the following areas of need:

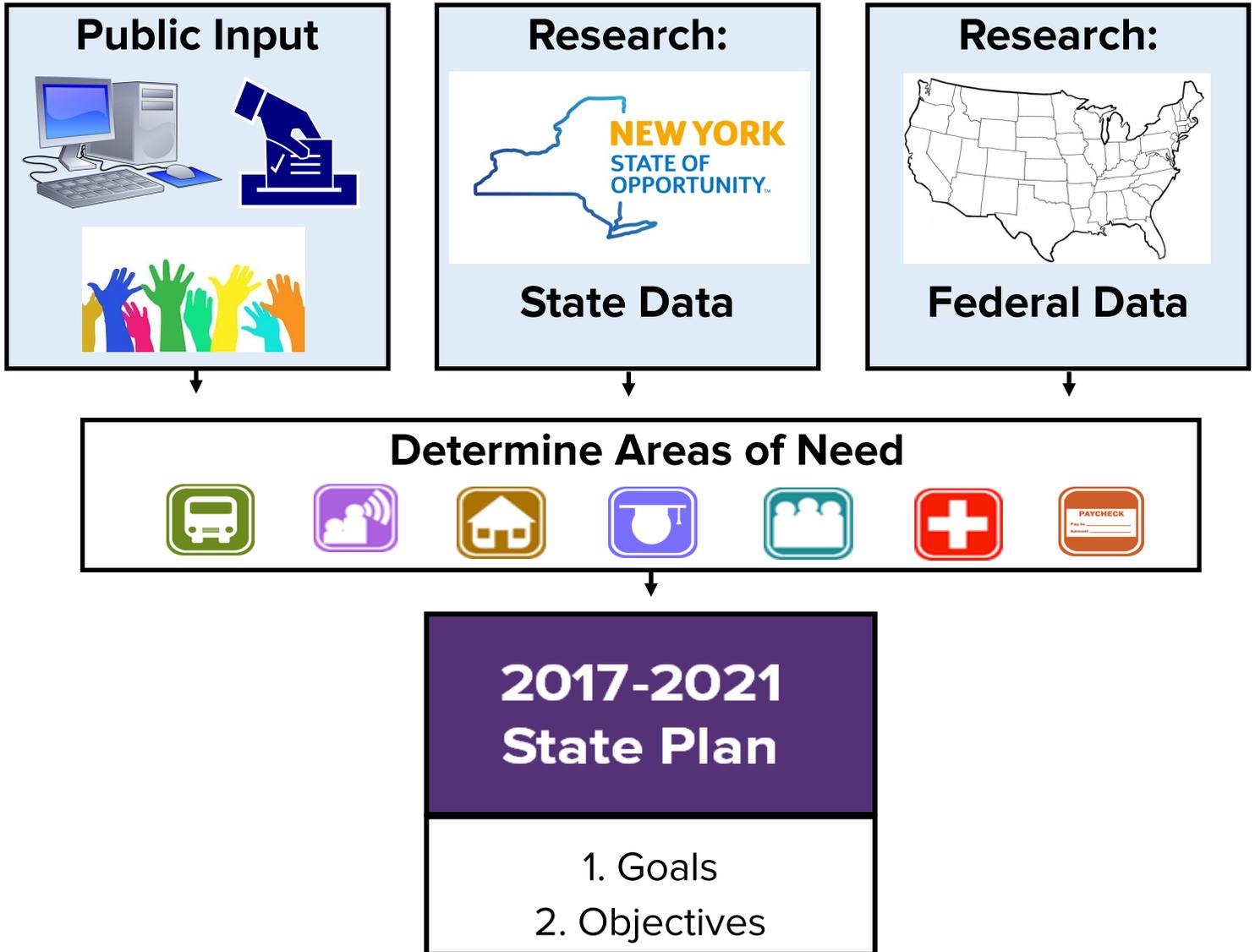
Employment — Housing — Transportation — Health
Quality Assurance — Advocacy & Leadership
Language Access and Cultural Competency



State Plan Development: Research

Using Public Input and Program Research

The NYS DDPC used the public input along with state and federal data to identify barriers and unmet needs of individuals with ID/DD and their families. This research leads to the development of the State Plan goals and objectives.



The following pages provide an overview of the public input the DDPC collected, as well as research from federal and NYS data around these areas of need.



Research and public input identified gaining and retaining competitive employment as one of the top challenges facing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

National and State Data

Data shows that individuals with a disability have a substantially lower employment rate than individuals without a disability.

Employment Rates	United States	New York
Individuals with a disability	17.5%	31.9%
Individuals without a disability	65%	72.1%

This leaves an employment gap of **40.2%** between those with and without disabilities in NYS.

Stakeholder Input

Challenges to Successful Employment

- 1) Limited opportunities to gain experience, to practice and develop on the job skills including; social skills, punctuality, attendance, and communication skills.
- 2) Limited number of volunteer opportunities for those not interested in traditional employment.
- 3) Lack of school-to-work transitions for students with disabilities.
- 4) Business owners lack knowledge about incentives, appropriate accommodations, and the value of employing people with disabilities.



Housing

Research and public input identified that finding accessible housing is a major challenge facing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Challenges to Housing

- 1) Lack of accessible and affordable housing.
- 2) Limited information about housing options.
- 3) Limited opportunities to choose own roommates.
- 4) Lack of opportunities to live independently .



Transportation

Research and public input showed that transportation is central to accessing opportunities and services for people with ID/DD. Several barriers exist in accessing public transportation.

Challenges to Transportation

- 1) Limited availability and/or service hours for those relying on public transportation to access health care services, employment, and the community.
- 2) Scarce transportation options for those living in rural areas.
- 3) Paratransit services can be complex to navigate. Pickup windows can produce long waits and there is limited service during early and later times of day and on weekends.



Research and public input showed that accessing and maintaining appropriate health services is a major challenge facing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

National and State Data

Rates of chronic diseases (hypertension, arthritis, diabetes, cancer, etc.) are **substantially higher** for individuals with ID/DD than they are for people without disabilities in NYS.

People with disabilities in NY have higher rates of:

Health Risks	Individuals with Disability	Individuals without Disability
Falling Injuries	22.6%	11%
Obesity	41.7%	23.2%
Smoking	19.1%	13.2%

Stakeholder Input

Challenges to Maintaining Health

- 1) Lack of education and training for healthcare professionals on the needs of those with ID/DD.
- 2) Lack of access to quality health care (especially mental health & dental care).
- 3) Lack of education and limited programs for people with ID/DD and their family members on substance abuse, sexual education and orientation, stress management and mental health.



Formal and Informal Community Supports

Research and public input identified a need for more community and service provider supports.

Challenges to Maintaining Supports

- 1) There is a need for more recruitment and retention of support staff to maintain quality community services for people with ID/DD.
- 2) Individuals and families report a lack of awareness and understanding of the supports and services that are available to them.
- 3) People with ID/DD feel they have limited inclusive social, community, and volunteer opportunities in NYS.



Self-Advocacy

Research and public input identified a need for continued growth in self-advocacy opportunities for people with ID/DD.

Challenges to Self-Advocacy

- 1) Lack of a strong and unified advocacy voice in NYS and a limited number of people with ID/DD in leadership positions.
- 2) Need for more peer advocacy programs and supports, especially for youth and those with disabilities who identify as LGBTQ.
- 3) Limited opportunities for culturally diverse individuals and their families to be trained in advocacy efforts, become advocacy leaders, and engage in civic activities.



Our research and public input highlights the increased rates of which individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can find themselves at risk.

National and State Data

In 2015 there were over **50,000** reports in NY of incidents of abuse, neglect, sexual, and financial exploitation of people with ID/DD.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health disorders are at a **higher risk** for:

- Being in the juvenile justice system
- Being arrested, convicted and incarcerated
- Serving longer sentences



Stakeholder Input

Challenges to Safety & Security

- 1) Limited access to effective abuse, trauma, and exploitation (including fiscal) prevention education and programs.
- 2) Inappropriate use of restraints and seclusion in a number of service delivery systems.
- 3) Lack of emergency planning discussions between individuals with ID/DD and community partners serving those with ID/DD in emergency situations.
- 4) Lack of disability awareness by key members of the criminal justice system including attorneys, judges, defense attorneys, and correctional and parole officers.

From Research to State Plan

The outlined research directed a majority of the NYS DDPC's 2017-2021 State Plan, and the Council's overall focus to build capacity for community inclusion, advocacy, and change in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. The Council will work in the following four goal areas over the next five years to meet this focus:

- Goal 1:**  **Daily Life**
- Goal 2:**  **Community and Social Living**
- Goal 3:**  **Health, Safety and Security**
- Goal 4:**  **Civic Engagement and Advocacy**

Research identified several groups who face additional obstacles beyond those faced by individuals with ID/DD in general, under these goal areas. Therefore, embedded in all of the NYS DDPC goal areas is a commitment to unserved and underserved populations.

Unserved and Underserved Communities

- Individuals with ID/DD and their families from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Individuals with ID/DD and their families who speak a primary language other than English.
- Individuals with ID/DD who identify as LGBTQ.
- Individuals with ID/DD who are aging (60 and older).
- Individuals with ID/DD living in rural communities.

The following pages are the Goals and Objectives of the NYS DDPC's 2017-2021 State Plan.

2017-2021 NYS DDPC State Plan



Goal 1: Daily Life

NYS DDPC will work to address the barriers to daily life of diverse individuals with ID/DD, family members, and caregivers by expanding life skills, improving access to employment and services, and increasing access to information.

Objectives:

1. Employment

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will increase the number of individuals with ID/DD participating in employment related activities, with a focus on the following skill development areas: competitive employment, inclusive supported employment, internships, pathways to promotion, employment sustainability, work-based learning opportunities, and inclusive post-secondary education.

2. Life Skills

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will decrease barriers to independent and daily living for individuals with ID/DD by cultivating essential skills and abilities necessary to participate in everyday life.

3. Targeted Disparity

By 2021, the NYS DDPC, in collaboration with the NY developmental disabilities (DD) network, will increase access to information about the DD Network, services, and supports through outreach, training, and education for individuals with ID/DD and their families who have limited English proficiency (LEP) with a specific focus on Spanish and Chinese speakers.

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Goal 2: Community and Social Living

The NYS DDPC will support inclusive living in the community for people with ID/DD by increasing education and advancing innovation around housing, transportation, and community supports.

Objectives:

1. Housing

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will build capacity that helps increase the number of individuals with ID/DD living in a setting of their choosing by working to reduce housing discrimination, expand education for relevant stakeholders on housing options and opportunities, and support independent living.

2. Transportation

By 2021, NYS DDPC will reduce the number of barriers that individuals with ID/DD face regarding transportation through increased education and identifying and supporting initiatives that address transportation obstacles faced by geographically diverse communities.

3. Formal and Informal Community Supports

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will decrease barriers to community involvement by supporting promising approaches that better enable individuals with ID/DD and their families to participate in community life.

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Goal 3: Health, Safety & Security

NYS DDPC will help to promote better health, safety, and security for individuals with ID/DD, families, and caregivers, including un- and underserved communities facing significant disparities.

Objectives:

1. Health

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will work to decrease barriers to healthy living that individuals with ID/DD and their families face by using innovative approaches to increase access to health, behavioral, and wellness services and information.

2. Quality Assurance

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will increase the number of training, education, and outreach initiatives for individuals with ID/DD that focus on making communities safe, secure, and person-centered in ways that support independence, choice and responsibility.

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Goal 4: Civic Engagement and Advocacy

The NYS DDPC will strengthen the civic engagement and advocacy of and by individuals with ID/DD and family members representing diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds across NYS.

Objectives:

1. Self-advocacy and Leadership

During each year of the 2017-2021 State Plan, the DDPC will work to increase the number of self-advocates and leaders with disabilities by strengthening self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with ID/DD, supporting and expanding opportunities for individuals with ID/DD to become advocacy leaders, and providing opportunities for self-advocates to train other self-advocates and participate in cross disability, culturally diverse leadership organizations.

2. Advocacy and Civic Engagement

By 2021, the NYS DDPC will support and expand opportunities for culturally diverse individuals with ID/DD and their families to be trained in advocacy efforts, become advocacy leaders, and engage in civic activities.



**Developmental
Disabilities
Planning Council**

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