

# CREATING STATEWIDE CHANGE

2024 Impact Report



**NCCDD**  
North Carolina Council on  
Developmental Disabilities



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD), a 40-member body appointed by the Governor, is made up of:

- People with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities (I/DD)
- Parents/family members/guardians
- Representatives of state agencies
- State legislators
- Representatives from Disability Rights NC and the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
- Provider and local management entities/managed care organization representatives (LME/MCO)

The Council represents North Carolinians with I/DD and is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act). Serving up to two four-year terms, the membership is composed of 60 percent of people with I/DD or family members, with the remainder composed of representatives from state agencies, nonprofit and professional organizations. The Council guides all initiatives and contracts.



**NCCDD Council Members**



**NCCDD Staff**



**DD Network Partners**



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & COUNCIL CHAIR

In 2024, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) championed the intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) community throughout our state and at the White House twice. We focused on policy, education, advocacy, community living, competitive integrated employment, and communications.

The year ended as it began with our community in crisis. It started with NCCDD and our community advocating to meet the unmet needs of individuals with I/DD due to our waiting list and workforce shortage. The year ended on September 30th with NCCDD advocating to meet the needs of our community in western North Carolina which was devastated by Hurricane Helene.

Throughout the year, we made a difference. Our Council Chair spoke at the White House in June about our work to increase direct support professional (DSP) rates. We brought 22 individuals with I/DD and family members to speak to legislators in a packed auditorium of the General Assembly in May. That same month, we held a hybrid town hall in Charlotte with legislators and 250+ individuals with I/DD and family members. We had intense monthly policy education meetings with state leaders and our I/DD community on care coordination, 1915(i) Medicaid, the waiting list, inclusive post-secondary education, employment, CAP-DA and CAP-C, the DSP workforce shortage, and the other critical issues impacting our community.

Our Council-funded initiatives have shown a positive impact in the three areas that guide our work: Goal 1: Financial Asset Development, Goal 2: Community Living, and Goal 3: Advocacy.

Finally, we communicated often and in multiple ways to make sure we reached our community on all of the new services, changes, and issues impacting our community. NCCDD ends 2024 knowing that we made a difference and committed to continuing to ensure that everyone with I/DD can live full and meaningful lives in their community.

**Talley Wells**, NCCDD Executive Director  
**Bryan Dooley**, NCCDD Council Chair



*Talley Wells and Bryan Dooley prepare to leave for the White House for the 25th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision*



*Talley Wells and Cheryl Powell meet with Sen. Lee (R-District 8)*



[Council Chair spoke at the White House in June](#)



[DD Caucus article recap](#)



# AMPLIFYING ADVOCATE STORIES

During this past year, individuals with I/DD and family members had two great opportunities to connect with legislators.

On May 2, 2024, NCCDD teamed up with advocacy organizations, providers, and legislators to hold a Developmental Disabilities Town Hall in Charlotte. The event included 270 people online and in-person. The event opened with a special welcome from Jose Hernandez-Paris of the Latin American Association and Khristina Hernandez. Then, Senator Jim Burgin, Representative Carla Cunningham, and Representative Terry Brown spoke to the audience. The night ended with important questions and comments from the I/DD community.

Less than two weeks later, the I/DD Legislative Caucus held a listening session at the Legislative Building Auditorium in Raleigh, NC. Meet The Need NC, an initiative funded by NCCDD, and many other groups worked with the Legislative Caucus and NCCDD to plan the event. Twenty-three individuals with I/DD, family members, and advocates spoke to legislators. There were over 110 people in attendance, including 15 legislators. Many advocates also met with legislators who were unable to attend the Caucus.

At both events, individuals and families told their stories of how the Direct Support Professional workforce shortage and the Innovations Waiver waiting list have impacted their lives. Legislators shared how important it was to hear from people across the state about these issues as they make policy and budget decisions.

These are just a few examples of how NCCDD advocates for the I/DD community alongside individuals with I/DD and their families.



[Town Hall NCDHHS/NCCDD event announcement from NCDHHS](#)

## 270

People attended the DD Town Hall

## 110

People attended and 23 advocates spoke during the I/DD Legislative Caucus

## 15

Legislators attended the events



# HISPANIC DISABILITY OUTREACH

At NCCDD, people with I/DD are part of all of our diverse communities. That's why it's important to learn about disabilities and know about the services and resources that are available for people with disabilities and their families.

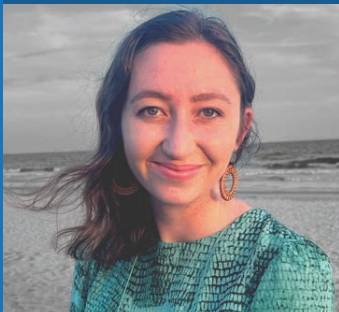
To better understand the needs of the Hispanic community, NCCDD is working directly in the community through the Council's Hispanic Disability Community Advocate, Irlanda Ruiz, who attended resource fairs, parent meetings, conferences; made visits to organizations; and gave presentations in several counties. NCCDD now offers resource materials in Spanish to make sure the information is easy for everyone to understand.



## RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES

Each year, NCCDD recognizes leaders in the I/DD community who help build a better North Carolina for all people with I/DD through its Advocacy and Leadership Awards. The 2023 award recipients were recognized at the November 2023 Council meeting in Cary, NC.

### North Carolina Leadership Achievement Award



Jacklyn Boheler

### Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award



Sarah Potter

### Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Bill Milner & Betsy White  
of ACCESS Dental

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
2023 RECIPIENTS



# CREATING STATEWIDE CHANGE: COUNCIL FUNDED INITIATIVES

This was the third year of NCCDD's 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan. The State Plan aims to advance the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) through its requirements of self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion for individuals with I/DD and their families. There are three goals that NCCDD projects fall under: Financial Asset Development, Community Living, and Advocacy. Cross Cutting initiatives overlap all three state plan goals.



## GOAL 1: Financial Asset Development

Funded initiatives to increase Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), promote the establishment of inclusive post-secondary education (IPSE) programs at NC historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), expand benefits counseling, and teach about Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).



## GOAL 2: Community Living

Funded initiatives focused on guardianship and supported decision making (SDM), the collection of I/DD data, supported living, and seven short-term initiatives.



## GOAL 3: Advocacy Development

Funded initiatives focused on building advocacy leadership training and peer mentoring programs. Supported a monthly self-advocate discussion series and held a Spanish viewing of the film "Unmet: The Disability Crisis in NC."



## CROSS CUTTING

Funded initiatives, Meet the Need NC (MTN) and Media Relations, that overlap the three state plan goals.

# FFY BUDGET 2023-2024

ACTUAL	AMOUNT
Budget	\$2,168,620
<b>*EXPENSES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$2,133,105</b>
<b>FFY 2023 BALANCE</b>	<b>\$35,515</b>



BUDGET	AMOUNT
Financial Asset Development	\$145,000
Advocacy Development	\$200,000
Community Living	\$310,113
Cross Cutting Functions	\$295,639
Operations & Administration	\$1,217,868
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$2,168,620</b>

\*For the Period of October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2024

## GOAL 1: Financial Asset Development



**40** advocates attended a Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) conference

**286**

individuals with I/DD and family members received benefits counseling/training



Provide Inclusive Post-Secondary training to **6** universities

## GOAL 2: Community Living



Consulted with **18** subject matter experts, including **8** people with I/DD or family members, to review **3** new resource guides on less restrictive alternatives to guardianship

Funded

**7**

Community Living Mini-Grants focused on advancing Community Living goals



Expanded the original list of less restrictive alternatives from **12** to **22**

## GOAL 3: Advocacy Development

**545**

People attended the Self-Advocate Discussion Series

Held **3** advocacy leadership information gathering events with

**80**

people attending

**45**

Members joined a growing I/DD advocacy leaders network

## CROSS CUTTING

**8** Meet The Need NC newsletters distributed to over

**1900**

subscribers

Distributed **100+** email alerts, news, and announcements to

**8500**

NCCDD email subscribers

**8** MTN Lunch & Learn webinars attended by nearly

**1200**

individuals, families and professionals

Scan for more information on our current initiatives



*\* The numbers provided are the total count of engagement and reach across NCCDD initiatives.*



[Scan to read the complete Impact Report Online](#)

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