Life Like Any Other

2017 ICDD Annual Report

Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

A message from Chairperson and Director

Kimberly Mercer-Schleider
ICDD Director

Bill Bogdan
Council Chairperson

It is a new day at the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD). We have a new look, new Council members, and new leadership. While some of the faces may be new, the mission has stayed the same: to help lead change in Illinois so all people with Developmental Disabilities are able to exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom. We remain vigilant in this pursuit. We are working to guide ICDD through a year of unprecedented challenges both in our State and nationwide.

In reflecting on the past year, despite all of the challenges, our feelings of pride are what remain. We are proud to have grown our list of investments to include new organizations working locally to ensure the social capital of all Illinoisans is maximized. We are proud of our dedicated Council members who volunteer many hours supporting ICDD in meeting our mission, and we are immensely proud of all of the self-advocates who have taught so many others in the past year that disability rights are human rights.

Please continue to follow the work of ICDD into the next year and read on to hear about activities and accomplishments of 2016 and 2017.

Sincerely,

Meet the Council

At least 60% of ICDD's Council members must be people with or relatives of people with developmental disabilities. The remaining members represent various government agencies, service providers and not-for-profit groups.

Individuals: William Bogdan, Chairperson, Diana Braun, Cathy Christensen, Adam Cooper, Brian Dixon, Bonnie Dohogne, Deb Goodman, Brad Guidi, Trevor Halfacre, JJ Hanley, Abbey Heins, Nathan Joerndt, Jose Ovalle, Zoubida Pascha, Barbara Pritchard, Carole Rosen, Vincent Smith, Jeffrey Stauter, Julie Stover, Dan Winters

Agencies: Equip for Equality, IL Department of Children & Family Services, IL Department of Healthcare & Family Services, Bureau of Maternal & Infant Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Rehabilitation Services, IL Department of Aging, IL Governor's Office of Management & Budget, IL State Board of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Disability & Human Development

The Council at a Glance

The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), founded in 1974, is a federally funded state agency that was created under the federal amendment to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

ICDD supports the development of systems change through advocacy and collaboration that create opportunities and services for persons with developmental disabilities. ICDD concentrates its efforts in the following areas:

- Child Care
- Community Supports
- Education/Early Intervention
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Quality Assurance
- Recreation
- Transportation

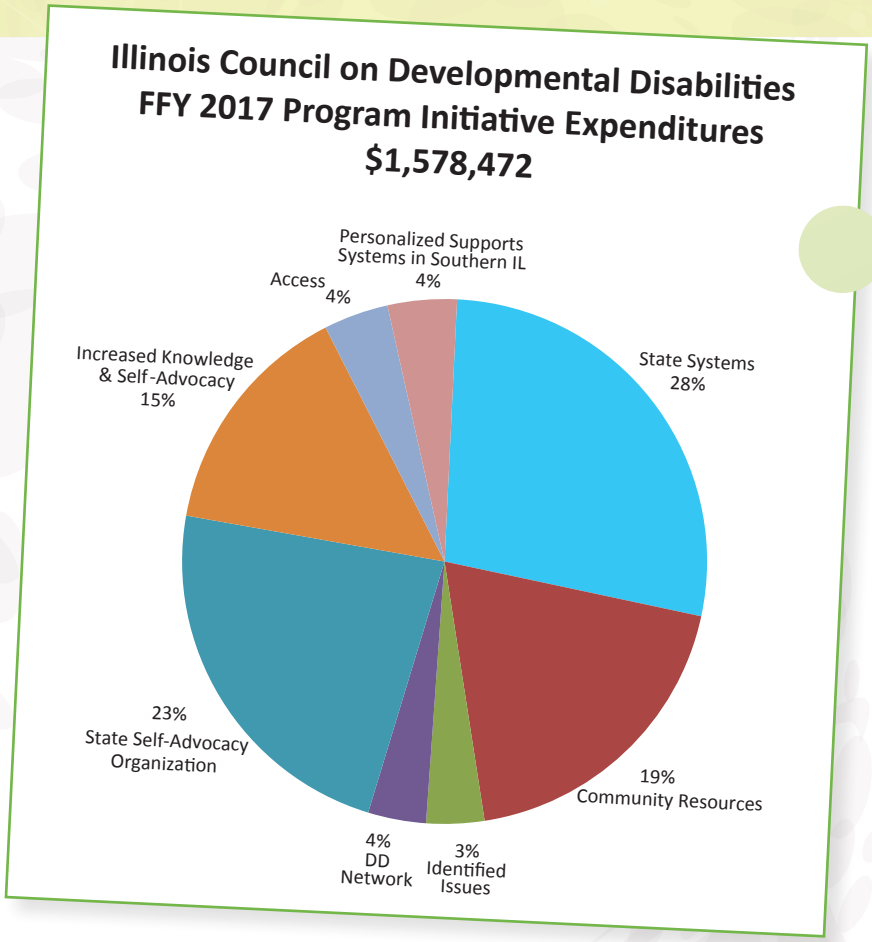
ICDD strives to bring new opportunities to the state so that people throughout Illinois can benefit from the best options available.

Value People | Invest in Success. Freedom | Opportunity | Community

ICDD's Budget

Mission Statement:

We help lead change in Illinois so all people with developmental disabilities exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom.



Making a Difference

Goal 1 - Individual & Family Advocacy

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families knowledgeably advocate and take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems.

Project: Illinois Statewide Self-Advocacy Organization
Investment Partner: Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance)
Location: Statewide

- 9 self-advocates lead the Alliance as paid Ambassadors
- 25 local self-advocacy organizations for the Alliance allow 304 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to advocate on a personal and/or issue basis
- Members are trained in leadership and 15 are on various committees and workgroups to advocate on issues and service improvements
- Political elections and the Going Home Coalition were among ways members advocated

Project: Speak Up and Speak Out
Investment Partner: Arc of Illinois
Location: Statewide

- 383 individuals with developmental disabilities and 142 family and support staff attended November's Speak Up Speak Out Summit
- Open mic session showed that attendees indeed can Speak Up on issues they care about
- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities were on planning committee and 35 were presenters

Project: Home and Community Based Services – Advocates Creating Transformation (HCBS-ACT)
Investment Partner: Council on Quality and Leadership
Location: Statewide 3073 people were trained on the HCBS community-based services federal Rule

- 14 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members were mentored and now presenting on the HCBS Rule
- Educational resources available at https://www.c-q-l.org/HCBS-ACT

Goal 2 - Systems Change

Support systems are optimized so that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Illinois live and thrive in the broader community.

Project: A Training System to Support the Award of Excellence in Inclusion of Children with Special Needs

Investment Partner: School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED)

Location: Statewide

- 9 additional early education sites received technical assistance and earned the Award of Excellence in Inclusion
- February 2017 Early Childhood Inclusion Policy Summit provided baseline knowledge of best practice and the current state of inclusion in early learning in Illinois. 91 invited leaders from 49 entities agreed on a common definition of inclusion. Next steps for coordination and implementation of the federal Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs policy were captured in a Summit Report. Action items assumed by several programs, agencies and workgroups.

Project: HALO Faculty Development and Peer Mentoring (Heartland Academy for Learning Opportunities)

Investment Partner: Heartland Community College Location: Normal, IL

- Peer mentors for all HALO students support their inclusion in audited courses. To sustain mentoring, mentors now receive credit at Heartland or Il. State University.
- 6 faculty members developed to serve as internal experts on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). In total, 70 faculty members are trained on UDL principles
- Certification in UDL is now part of Heartland's learning management system, Blackboard, via 4 on-line training modules. As of Fall 2016, faculty are required to complete advanced certification including UDL to be promoted to Tier III.

6 Life Like Any Other Projects

Collective outcomes in 2017:

- 151 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities became involved in community groups
- 182 community members were educated about including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- 26 community organizations received training/ education on inclusion

Project: Life Like Any Other
Investment Partner: Community Choices
Location: Champaign, IL

- Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are mentors for students in special education in 2 local elementary schools
- Connections made with community groups for future conversations on inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and to identify outlets for publicly sharing personal stories and messages.

Project: Leaning into Community Together
Investment Partner: Heroes of the Game
Location: Winnebago, Effingham-Coles and Waterloo-Monroe Counties

- Expands community asset based approach to 2 new parts of the state
- Support teams formed around 29 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to assist them in pursuing their goals.
- Community Connectors assist individuals in growing into new roles in their families, socially as a friend, participant or volunteer in clubs, community programs, social organizations, recreation centers, and as employees for businesses

Project: Change Champions for Inclusive Communities
Investment Partner: Center for Independent Futures
Location: Evanston, Frankfort, Little Village/ Berwyn, and the north shore suburbs

- 2 entities in each of 4 communities partnering to incorporate changes and become inclusive; Bridge Builders in each ensure individuals with developmental disabilities are engaged
- 21 individuals identified their interests and goals and have Change Champions linking them to places and communities matching their desires

Project: Quality Lives in Geneseo
Investment Partner: Il. Assn. of Microboards & Cooperatives
Location: Henry County

- Bringing a community asset approach to Geneseo; engaging municipal, school, business, service organizations, churches, and other entities in support of new support approaches
- Transition students and young adults have a network of supporters develop a PATH (personalized plan) and help them pursue life goals of their choosing

Project: Community Play
Project Investment Partner: KCCDD, Inc.
Location: Galesburg IL

- Inclusive theater group formed with 64 participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities and 27 community members
- October performance was standing room only!

Project: Proud & Included
Investment Partner: Neumann Family Services
Location: Cook County

- Creating integration into the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer) community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who also identify as LGBTQ
- 30 businesses and providers in the LGBTQ community educated on inclusion
- 5 Ambassadors taking the lead in training to the community and 63 members and 165 allies

ICDD's 5 Year State Plan
2017-2021

Individual & Family Advocacy Goal

Objectives

- Illinois' self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities is strengthened
- Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and other stakeholders increase their knowledge to advocate for their priorities
- Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and other stakeholders will have access to information about services, supports and other assistance.
- Youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ages 14-30) in southern Illinois will expand their life choices through personalized support systems.

Systems Change Goal

Objectives

- 3 state systems provide coordinated, individualized, flexible, and/or responsive services
- 10 communities provide full access to municipal, civic, social, spiritual, and all other aspects of community life
- ICDD initiates and/or collaborates to impact a minimum of 3 identified issues
- ICDD, Equip For Equality, the Institute on Disability and Human Development at University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Alliance support leadership of The Alliance to achieve issues of importance to their members

Staff Members

Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, Director

Mariel R. Hamer, Associate Director of Program & Policy

Janinna Hendricks, Associate Director of Fiscal

Margie Harkness, Program Specialist

Vanessa Morris, Director's Assistant

Contact Information

Chicago Office
100 W. Randolph Street, 10-600
Chicago, IL 60601
Voice: 312-814-2080
Fax: 312-814-7141

Springfield Office
830 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62704
Voice: 217-782-9696
Fax: 217-524-5339

TTY: 888-261-2717 • https://icdd.illinois.gov

Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Follow us