



# 2025 Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Investment Description Report





*Our investments and initiatives are based on the Council's Five-Year State Plan to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families have a part in the design of and access to culturally competent services, supports and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, productivity and integration and inclusion into the community.*

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# ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The **Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD)** was created under a federal mandate in 1974 as an amendment to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and is administered by the federal Administration of Developmental Disabilities.

Our mission is to help lead change in Illinois so all people with developmental disabilities exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom ICDD works to promote the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of those with disabilities into the community, ensuring that those individuals with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities as others in the community.

Moreover, the purpose of ICDD is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities participate and be included in everyday life, and be able to choose the services and supports that best fit their needs. To accomplish this, ICDD makes investments in people and organizations that serve people with disabilities throughout the State of Illinois. The Council follows the federal definition of developmental disability, which is a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- is manifested before the person attains age twenty two;
- is likely to continue indefinitely;
- results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency; and
- reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of life long or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated; except that such term, when applied to infants and young children means an individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more of the criteria described above if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

# Meet the Council



Membership consists of **60%** people with DD and family members. Members:

Lore Baker, (Dupage), Stephanie Brown (Jackson), Tyson Bedford, (Quad Cities), Diana Braun (Sangamon), Lisa Cesal (DuPage), Diane Compton, (DuPage), Natasha Croff (Cook), Ana Cruz (Madison), Curtis Harris (Cook), Nathan Joerndt (Livingston), Da Wen Mei (Cook), Carl Nave (Macon), Teresa Parks (Woodford), John Pashedag, (Madison), Zoubida Pasha (Cook), Robert (Bob) Peterson (DuPage), Consuelo Puente (DuPage), Jeff Stauter (Lee), Claire Stetler (Champaign), Julie Stover (Lawrence), Julie Tracy (Cook).

## Interested in applying to the Council?

These are Governor appointed positions with a two (2)-part application process:

**Step 1** --- [Apply Here](#)

**Step 2** --- [Apply Here](#)

## Staff Members

1. Kimberly Mercer-Schleider, *Director*  
[Kimberly.Mercer-Schleider@illinois.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Mercer-Schleider@illinois.gov)
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3. Mariel Hamer-Sinclair, *Associate Director of Program & Policy*  
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9. Gary Arnold, *Program Specialist*  
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## State Agency Representatives

1. Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
2. Department on Aging
3. Office of Management and Budget
4. Department of Children & Family Services
5. Illinois State Board of Education
6. Department of Healthcare and Family Services
7. Equip for Equality
8. Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services
9. Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities
10. Department of Human Services, Bureau of Maternal and Infant Health

## Join the ICDD Listserv

Join the ICDD listserv by emailing  
[ICDDInfo@illinois.gov](mailto:ICDDInfo@illinois.gov)



# 5-Year State Plan

(Federal Fiscal Year 2022 – 2026)

Every five years, the DD Council develops a state plan with goals and objectives to address new ways of improving the lives of Iowans with developmental disabilities. Self-advocates, families, state agencies, providers, educators, and other stakeholders provide input into the development of the state plan.

**GOAL 1:** By September 30, 2026, a minimum of 1000 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families knowledgeable advocate and take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems.

**Objective 1:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities; will support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders; and will support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

**Objective 2:** By September 30, 2026, individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and other stakeholders will increase their knowledge and access to coordinated, streamlined information about services and supports, and will increase opportunities to advocate for their priorities among accessible and effective service systems.

**Objective 3:** By September 30, 2026, in collaboration with community partners, ICDD will reduce service access barriers and decrease the disparity in available information for linguistically diverse communities (inclusive of but, not limited to: Spanish & Polish) and increase the cultural competency of the DD service delivery system by providing information in languages other than English to increase inclusion of linguistically diverse individuals with DD and their families in at least 3 aspects of the service delivery system.

**GOAL 2:** By September 30, 2026, support systems will be optimized to increase stakeholder capacity, improve employment systems, community housing options, and post-secondary outcomes for youth in transition (ages 14 - 26). There will be 3 identified issues impacted and support provided to racial or language minority communities in at least 3 disparate geographic locations.

**Objective 1:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will promote participation of people with developmental disabilities in Employment First activities, increase stakeholder capacity, and advocate for legislative and policy changes to increase competitive integrated employment.

**Objective 2:** By September 30, 2026, through interagency collaboration, a minimum of one (1) systemic change will be achieved in the area of housing / community living resulting in increased access for people with developmental disabilities to housing of their choice.

**Objective 3:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will address any unanticipated emerging needs (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, etc.) for individuals with developmental disabilities and families.

**Objective 4:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will assist/facilitate three (3) or more individualized, flexible, and/or responsive services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 5:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD collaborates with other state agencies, advocacy groups, and/ or researchers to improve state systems for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 6:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD, Equip for Equality (EFE) and the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois Chicago will facilitate at least one policy and/or programmatic initiative to increase successful post-secondary outcomes for transition age youth (ages 14-26) in the area of employment, post-secondary education, and/or post-secondary training, and independent living.

**Objective 7:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will support at least three (3) regionally significant racial or language minority communities in at least three (3) disparate geographic locations in Illinois to enable people with developmental disabilities to access a life like any other by increasing their inclusion in educational systems and related social settings.

# Investment State Plan Alignment

INVESTMENTS (BY SHORT NAME)	STATE PLAN ALIGNMENT (2022-2026)
(1) The IL Self-Advocacy Alliance	Goal 1 / Objective 1
(2) Speak Up & Speak Out Summit	Goal 1 / Objective 1
(3) Financial Wellness & Economic Justice	Goal 1 / Objective 2
(4) National Leadership Consortium on DD Training Series	Goal 1 / Objective 2
(5) Policy Project	Goal 1 / Objective 2
(6) Consumer Stipend Project	Goal 1 / Objective 2
(7) Illinois Partners in Policymaking	Goal 1 / Objective 2
(8) Bridging the Gap: Illinois Landscape Analysis for Inclusive Service Access Project	Goal 1 / Objective 3
(9) Customized Employment Technical Assistance Project Tailored Pathways	Goal 2 / Objective 1
(10) Supportive Housing Project Technical Assistance	Goal 2 / Objective 2
(11) Supportive Housing Transition Fund	Goal 2 / Objective 2
(12) SCOOT App.	Goal 2 / Objective 4

***Our investments and initiatives are based on the Council's Five-Year State Plan to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families have a part in the design of and access to culturally competent services, supports and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, productivity and integration and inclusion into the community.***



# Investment Descriptions



# 2025 ICDD Annual Investment Descriptions for Report

## Goal 1 Investment Descriptions

**Goal 1:** By September 30, 2026, a minimum of 1000 Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families knowledgeably advocate and take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems.

**Objective 1:** By September 30, 2026, ICDD will strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities; will support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders; and will support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

<b>Investment Name:</b>	The IL Self-Advocacy Alliance
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	The IL Self-Advocacy Alliance
<b>Start &amp; End Date:</b>	5/1/22 - 4/30/27
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The Alliance will develop and empower self-advocates across the state in the areas of personal, statewide, and national self-advocacy. There will be a minimum of 30 actively advocating member groups, 20 individually supported Advocate Bureau members, and 8 self-advocates assuming leadership of The Alliance as paid staff. As a result of the work of The Alliance, there will be a broadened (geographic, transition-age) increase in self-advocate involvement and active participation in systems change advocacy through training of self-advocates, support of advisors and allies, communication of advocacy opportunities, and partnerships and inclusion in coalitions with disability and non-disability entities.</p> <p>Having a seat at the table where the decisions are being made and having a voice in the decisions affecting one's life and the lives of others provides for self-advocates to be part of the decision-making process and not simply be on the receiving end of decisions made by others. Having a seat and a voice will help equalize the power dynamics that currently exist between people with DD and systems that support them.</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/">http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisSelfAdvocacyAlliance">https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisSelfAdvocacyAlliance</a> <a href="#">(47) Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc. - YouTube</a>

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Speak Up & Speak Out (SUSO) Summit
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	The Arc of Illinois
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	1/3/22 - 12/31/27
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The Arc of Illinois will host annual Hybrid (i.e., in-person and virtual participation) or Virtual (i.e., online participation only) SUSO Summits in years 2023 – 2027. In addition, they will host an additional webinar series on Legislative Meetings leading up to March of each year which is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The goal of the webinar series is to prepare self-advocates to schedule and</p>

	<p>participate in meetings with their legislators.</p> <p>The summit provides an opportunity for self-advocates to come together from throughout the state and share activities and training designed to help each achieve the highest level of independence and self-direction in their life as possible. Self-advocates will learn to advocate about what is important to them and how to work on making changes in their lives. Self-advocates will have the opportunity in this type of setting to feel comfortable enough to speak what they feel which helps staff and families understand better as well as helps each self-advocate learn more about what they themselves want. The project will follow up with attendees to document how self-advocates are using their advocacy skills and to connect them to local advocacy groups if they desire.</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://www.speakuppeakoutsummit.org/">https://www.speakuppeakoutsummit.org/</a>

**Objective 2: By September 30, 2026, individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and other stakeholders will increase their knowledge and access to coordinated, streamlined information about services and supports, and will increase opportunities to advocate for their priorities among accessible and effective service systems.**

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Financial Wellness and Economic Stability Initiative
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	National Disability Institute (NDI)
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	Planned for 3/1/24 - 9/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>This new NDI project will build upon the previous project to create new opportunities to move individuals up the rungs of the economic ladder. NDI proposes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Host Four Financial Wellness Train the Trainer Sessions</li> <li>2. Review and update the Illinois Financial Wellness curriculum each year based on new policy or programmatic changes</li> <li>3. Host a training on the Community Reinvestment Act and Housing Initiatives</li> <li>4. Create an Economic Stability Working Group that will focus on both policy and programmatic solutions to assure that financial wellness is achievable</li> <li>5. Create a Financial Wellness Resource Map (Chicagoland)</li> <li>6. Create visual stories and testimonial videos</li> </ol>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/downloads/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/downloads/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/blog/meet-the-faces-of-financial-wellness/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/blog/meet-the-faces-of-financial-wellness/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/protecting-yourself-from-identity-theft/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/protecting-yourself-from-identity-theft/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/housing-opportunities-for-people-with-disabilities/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/housing-opportunities-for-people-with-disabilities/</a>

	<a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/extra-costs-of-living-with-a-disability-icdd/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/extra-costs-of-living-with-a-disability-icdd/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/identity-theft-and-online-shopping/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/identity-theft-and-online-shopping/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/five-key-strategies-to-financial-wellness/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/five-key-strategies-to-financial-wellness/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/financial-inclusion-101/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/illinois/financial-inclusion-101/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/november-14-illinois-cdd-webinar/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/november-14-illinois-cdd-webinar/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/five-key-strategies/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/five-key-strategies/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/icdd/september-12-financial-inclusion-101/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/icdd/september-12-financial-inclusion-101/</a> <a href="https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/reports/advancing-economic-justice-for-people-with-disabilities/">https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/reports/advancing-economic-justice-for-people-with-disabilities/</a>
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<b>Investment Name:</b>	National Leadership Consortium on DD Training Series
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	National Leadership Consortium (NLC)
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	1/10/22 - 6/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities offered leadership development training, future of the field training, and staff development to Illinois disability service sector leaders, IL Partners in Policymaking alumni, and Council members. The Consortium is dedicated to building a corps of quality leaders and to the promotion of sound, values-based leadership practices. The components will promote the development and efforts of disabilities service sector leaders as they continue the shift toward individualized, person-directed, inclusive supports in Illinois. Components include two (2) Virtual Illinois Leadership Institutes for current and emerging agency leaders, One (1) Future of the Field Training for varied stakeholders, ICDD Council Member Development, and Partners in Policymaking Alumni Engagement Sessions. The goal of the National Leadership Consortium is to assure the quality and commitment of the next generation of leaders for government and nonprofit organizations serving people with developmental disabilities.</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://natleadership.org/why.html">https://natleadership.org/why.html</a> <a href="https://natleadership.org/pdfs/Final%20IDD%20Provider%20Survey%20on%20Self-Directed%20Services%20and%20Supports%20Report.pdf">https://natleadership.org/pdfs/Final IDD Provider Survey on Self-Directed Services and Supports Report.pdf</a>

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Policy Project
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	Phil Milsk Consulting
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	3/15/21 – 6/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>Policy Project activities for Phil Milsk include (but are not limited to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyzing state and federal legislation and design plain language communications to be made available to community partners</li> <li>2. Determining the benefits and drawbacks of existing state and federal policies and share those findings with ICDD staff and community partners to promote advocacy and awareness</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Identifying legal flaws in state and federal policies and recommend amendments to the DD Network and community partners</p> <p>4. Liaising with stakeholders to determine needs and goals of state and federal policies</p> <p>5. Gathering data and produce reports on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the impact of policies, legislation, laws, etc. impacting people with DD and families</p> <p>6. Providing expertise and recommendations regarding state and federal policy topics/issues</p> <p>7. Providing monitoring of state and federal policies, legislation, etc. and track impact to people with DD and families</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Consumer Stipend Project
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	The Arc of Illinois
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	12/24- 9/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	The Consumer Stipend is available to individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members or guardians, and personal support workers who could not otherwise afford the costs associated with attending a conference, workshop, or seminar. The conference or training must be informational and/or educational and not for the use of entertainment purposes. The goal of this program is to provide participants with opportunities, experiences, resources, and information at conferences and empower them to actively participate in decisions being made that affect their lives. Participants will be able to make a change in their life, connect with others and gain knowledge that will help them become better advocates.
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/financial-assistance-for-trainings/">https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/financial-assistance-for-trainings/</a> <b>Application:</b> <a href="https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/">https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/</a>

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Partners in Policymaking
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	High Impact Mission Based Consulting and Training
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	1/16/23 – 1/1/26
<b>Synopsis</b>	High Impact resumes IL Partners in Policymaking, building upon its successful three years of fidelity to Minnesota Model documented in an evaluation by National Louis University. This new three-year project partners with seven local and state organizations and will graduate 24 graduates per class (3) of family members, professionals, supporters and adults with DD with ethnic, socioeconomic, age and disability diversity from across Illinois to develop advocacy leadership skills/competencies for systems change in public policy, using Universal Design for Learning and requested accommodations and assigned faculty support for each person to achieve success. High Impact is a Chicago-based entity with a long history of project management and training on disability issues in Illinois and the United States. CEO Allan Bergman will be Director with a team of equally passionate, skilled and diverse persons. Productivity, Integration and Inclusion.

<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://mn.gov/partners-in-policy-making/">Partners in Policymaking (mn.gov)</a>
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**Objective 3: By September 30, 2026, in collaboration with community partners, ICDD will reduce service access barriers and decrease the disparity in available information for linguistically diverse communities (inclusive of but, not limited to: Spanish & Polish) and increase the cultural competency of the DD service delivery system by providing information in languages other than English to increase inclusion of linguistically diverse individuals with DD and their families**

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Bridging the Gap: Illinois Landscape Analysis for Inclusive Service Access Project
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	Lulinski Consulting, LLC
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	12/4/2024 – 9/30/2025
<b>Synopsis</b>	The Bridging the Gap: Illinois Landscape Analysis for Inclusive Service Access Project will conduct a comprehensive review of service access and barriers faced by unserved and underserved populations within the developmental disabilities (DD) community in Illinois. By identifying these barriers, the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) will gain valuable insights to determine the best path forward for enhancing systems change and addressing disparities in access and service delivery. This landscape analysis will help guide targeted systems changes that reduce disparities, improve access, and foster greater inclusion for individuals with DD and their families.
<b>Links to resources:</b>	N/A

## **Goal 2 Investment Descriptions**

**Goal 2:** By September 30, 2026, support systems will be optimized to increase stakeholder capacity, improve employment systems, community housing options, and post-secondary outcomes for youth in transition (ages 14 - 26). There will be 3 identified issues impacted and support provided to racial or language minority communities in at least 3 disparate geographic locations.

**Objective 1: By September 30, 2026, ICDD will promote participation of people with developmental disabilities in Employment First activities, increase stakeholder capacity, and advocate for legislative and policy changes to increase competitive integrated employment.**

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Customized Employment (CE) Technical Assistance
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	Marc Gold & Associates
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	12/1/23 - 9/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	The project goal is to facilitate the continued implementation and expansion of quality CE services and employment outcomes in Illinois so that more individuals with developmental disabilities can successfully obtain Customized and Competitive Integrated Employment. One focus is the CE Pilot Project currently underway through the DRS. DRS Division leadership will be provided technical assistance to ensure that CE contract grantees are implementing CE in fidelity to national standards. Technical assistance will be provided

	to DRS to ensure the pilot is completed as intended and is evaluated. Additionally, DRS and providers will be assisted in gathering and analyzing data to continue to monitor and evaluate CE services. A second focus is to increase vocational staff capacity to implement quality CE services. Training, competency-based certification, and technical assistance will be offered to DRS and provider leadership and staff. TA was given to align 2025 contracts with CE best practice.
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<a href="https://www.marcgold.com/">https://www.marcgold.com/</a> <a href="https://www.marcgold.com/mgapresentations">https://www.marcgold.com/mgapresentations</a> <a href="https://www.marcgold.com/forms">https://www.marcgold.com/forms</a>

### Staff Activity – Workgroups attending

- **Employment and Economic Opportunity Taskforce (EEOPD) & Subcommittees**

#### Subcommittees

1. Workforce Development Subcommittee
2. Transition Subcommittee
3. Provider Subcommittee
4. Legislative Subcommittee

- Division of Rehabilitation Services Career Counseling Collaboration
- Illinois Committee for Employees with Disabilities
  - a. Outreach and Recruitment Subcommittee
- Dignity of Pay Collaboration

**Objective 2: By September 30, 2026, through interagency collaboration, a minimum of one (1) systemic change will be achieved in the area of housing / community living resulting in increased access for people with developmental disabilities to housing of their choice.**

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Supportive Housing Pilot Technical Assistance
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	Higher Ground Partners LLC
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	11/1/21 – 9/30/25
<b>Synopsis</b>	This project is designed to directly support a Supportive Housing project that is an unprecedented partnership and combination of Department of Human Services and ICDD funds. Technical assistance and oversight to the pilot implementation and will be provided in a multi-faceted approach that includes program development, coaching, multi-site coordination, cross-system collaboration, and access to relevant training opportunities. The technical assistance structure will evolve in tandem with the overall statewide initiative and will be responsive to the needs of ICDD, IDHS-DDD, and the Independent Service Coordination grantees. The project goals will be implemented in three phases: 1) Planning, Award and On-Boarding, 2) Year 1- Ramp Up, 3) Years 2-5 - Scaling, Refinement and Sustainability.
<b>Links to resources:</b>	N/A

<b>Investment Name:</b>	Supportive Housing Transition Assistance Fund
<b>Subgrantees:</b>	All 8 Illinois Independent Service Coordination Agencies
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	10/1/22 – 10/31/26
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>ICDD and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in partnership have begun a pilot program in which housing navigators at all Independent Service Coordination (ISC) providers assist individuals from home, CILA, or ICFDD to move into a supportive housing residence. Transition Assistance Funds made available to Independent Service Coordination (ISC) Agencies will provide the support needed to assist people with Developmental Disabilities with the essentials required to establish and maintain their household in the community.</p> <p>Each participant entering supportive housing has access to up to \$2,000 in Transition Assistance Funds to assist with lease and utility fees and to purchase essential items to set up a household, based on an individual need assessment.</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	NA

**Objective 3: By September 30, 2026, ICDD will address any unanticipated emerging needs (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, etc.) for individuals with developmental disabilities and families.**

*No funded projects. Addressed through other ICDD state plan work.*

**Objective 4: By September 30, 2026, ICDD will assist/facilitate three (3) or more individualized, flexible, and/or responsive services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.**

<b>Investment Name:</b>	SCOOT App
<b>Subgrantee:</b>	New Star Services
<b>Start &amp; End Date</b>	11/1/22 - 12/31/24
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>Transportation is a significant barrier for people with developmental disabilities to fully participate in their community. This is especially true in areas outside of Chicago where public transportation is more limited.</p> <p>To address this barrier, ICDD has invested with New Star (Sertoma Star post- merger) to finish the development of the ridesharing SCOOT app (Stronger Community Opportunities through Organized Transportation). The application is approximately 90% complete. The Content Management System (CMS) is developed and has been tested. The CMS has a hierarchy of accounts for New Star, agency licensees, riders, and drivers. It has been approved by the Apple and Android app stores for free download. A licensee agreement has been drafted to allow other nonprofits to use it. Adjustments made to update the SCOOT app include updating the financial transaction component, adding visual mapping, and allowing for the addition of consumer and driver pictures. Application for drivers and marketing materials are currently being created and solicitation of drivers and</p>

	<p>marketing materials are being drafted.</p> <p>This project provides funding to test the SCOOT App as a transportation option for people associated with New Star with a database to track utilization. Sustainability plans will allow other nonprofits to be licensed for SCOOT to be used under their brand name and execute licensing agreements to allow for the expansion of SCOOT within Illinois and other states.</p>
<b>Links to resources:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Objective 5: By September 30, 2026, ICDD collaborates with other state agencies, advocacy groups, and/ or researchers to improve state systems for individuals with developmental disabilities.**

*No funded projects. Addressed through workgroup and coalition work.*

#### **Staff Activity – Workgroups attending**

- **Medicaid Advisory Committee**
- **UIC Consumer Advisory Committee**
- **Sex Education Law Implementation**
- **Money Follows the Person Operational Protocol Advisory Committee**
- **Early Intervention Program Advisory Committee**
- **Raising Illinois**
- **Autism Taskforce**
- **Electronic Visit Verification Advocacy Partnership**
- **Statewide Transition Conference Planning Committee**
- **Going Home Coalition**

#### **Statewide Independent Living Centers Workgroups**

- a. **Transportation**
- b. **Housing**
- c. **Advocacy**
- d. **Employment**

**Objective 6: By September 30, 2026, ICDD, Equip for Equality (EFE) and the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois Chicago will facilitate at least one policy and/or programmatic initiative to increase successful post-secondary outcomes for transition age youth (ages 14-26) in the area of employment, post-secondary education, and/or post-secondary training, and independent living.**

*No funded projects. Addressed through other ICDD, Equip for Equality, and UIC Institute on Disability and Human Development state plan work.*

**Objective 7: By September 30, 2026, ICDD will support at least three (3) regionally significant racial or language minority communities in at least three (3) disparate geographic locations in Illinois to enable people with developmental disabilities to access a life like any other by increasing their inclusion in educational systems and related social settings.**

*No funded projects. Addressed through other ICDD state plan work.*

## **The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities 2025 Investment Description Report**

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