



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities



Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

In 2025...

We expanded access to assistive technology, improved mental health access and outcomes for the dually diagnosed, supported accessible hiring and employment, continued uplifting self-determination through advocacy support and leadership training, and so much more!



(971) 225-3659



www.ocdd.org



info@ocdd.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Leadership	3
Five-Year Plan Overview	5
People Goal: Objective 1	6
People Goal: Objective 2	8
Systems Goal: Objective 1	9
Systems Goal: Objective 2	10
Systems Goal: Objective 3	11
Systems Goal: Objective 4	12
Systems Goal: Objective 5.....	13
Next Five-Year Plan Public Input	14
OCDD Members	15
OCDD Staff	16

AT A GLANCE



Events hosted or supported



Advocates supported to give testimony or meet with legislators



Counties represented



At the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities...

WE KNOW

People are most successful when they control their own lives.

WE WORK

To support people with IDD to pursue full lives in their communities.

WE BRIDGE GAPS

In systems and services that strengthen self-determination for all people with IDD.

Kelly McCauley
Chair



Eddie Plourde
Vice Chair



Brent Watkins
Interim Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As we look back on 2025, we recognize it as a year of building for the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). At the start of the year, only one staff member had worked at the Council for more than a year, and many of our activities were firsts for our OCDD team. And yet we responded with purpose, building a strong foundation and achieving significant milestones.

2025 Highlights

- Hosted the first in-person DD Awareness event in Salem at the Barbara Roberts Human Services Building in several years.
- Completed and launched major projects:
 - ✓ **Employment Toolkit** for state agencies to use when hiring people with developmental disabilities.
 - ✓ **Dual Diagnosis Report** with recommendations to address service gaps for people with IDD that have co-occurring mental health needs.
 - ✓ **Spanish Resource Guide** created and distributed across the state to address access gaps to Spanish language DD resources.
- Supported 41 advocates in 20 legislative meetings—a remarkable first session for our new team.
- Approved the Council's first major bylaws amendments in several years.
- Established a member-led, staff-supported committee structure that is changing the way our council completes work.
- Collected nearly 800 responses to our public input survey to our 5-year plan survey—far exceeding national averages.
- Led statewide training on Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) changes at major conferences.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

— Continued —



2026 Priorities

- Developing a “Supporting Advocacy Toolkit” to empower self-advocates and supporters.
- Pursuing a strategy to secure more permanent funding for statewide self-advocacy.
- Finalizing and implementing a membership recruitment process that supports greater membership growth and diversity.
- Keeping the Spanish Resource Guide current and widely distributed.
- Strengthening the DD Awareness Campaign theme: “Nothing About Us Without Us” to include year-round objectives and activities.
- Continuing to provide grant funding and support to the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition, regional self-advocacy start-ups, and the ongoing work of current advocacy groups across the state.
- Diversifying funding through grants and partnerships:
 - Pursuing a Capacity Building Institute (CBI) to address systemic gaps in supporting dually diagnosed individuals.
 - Supporting the ongoing growth and stability of the Oregon Consortium of Family Networks.
- Expanding access to assistive technology.
- Expanding access and opportunities to learn about public policymaking and the legislative process through training and ongoing collaboration with statewide partners.
- Develop and submit the next 5-year plan by August 15.

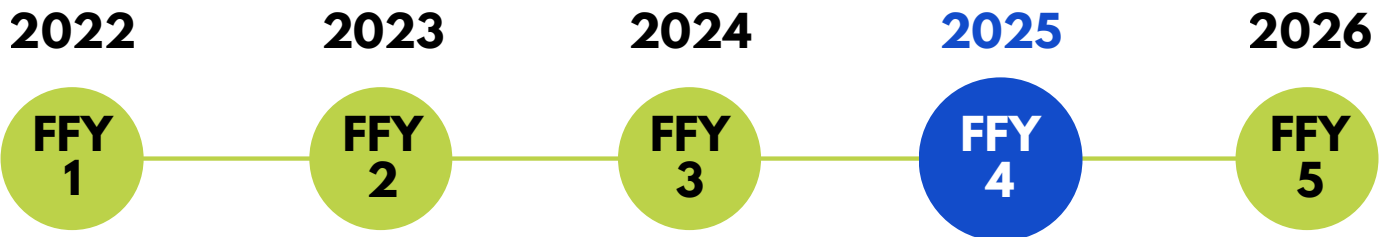
Looking Ahead with Gratitude

Thank you to our dedicated Council members, staff, advocates, and partners. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive Oregon.

5-YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES

This was the fourth federal fiscal year (FFY 4) of OCDD's 2022-2026 Five-Year State Plan which addresses self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion for people with IDD and their families.

CURRENT STATE PLAN OVERVIEW



PEOPLE GOAL

By 2026, people in the IDD community will know how to advocate for what they need in their communities to control their lives and services and feel included in all areas of their lives.

SYSTEMS GOAL

By 2026, we will use that information to support system and policy changes so people with IDD will have control of their lives and services.

ENGAGING DIVERSE VOICES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



“DD AWARENESS ALWAYS” CAMPAIGN

OCDD created campaign materials that advocates around the state used to share their own advocacy stories. The in-person event included speakers from Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition, the Office of Developmental Disability Services, and legislators.



I am
always...

- a leader
- an advocate
- loved
- a friend
- a person
- a visionary
- inspiring
- brave
- a champion
- a contributor
- a mentor
- a neighbor
- strong
- teaching
- teaching
- a parent
- an artist
- a brother
- a business owner
- a homeowner
- a mother
- a sister
- a survivor
- helping
- learning
- creative
- determined
- resilient
- smart
- thriving
- a caregiver
- a father

I can always do hard things.

I was always a business owner.

I am always a homeowner.

I am always a leader.

I am always a barrier breaker.

**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITY AWARENESS
~~MONTH~~ ALWAYS**

I am always an advocate.

I am always a visionary.

I am always an author.

I am always a basketball player.

I am always creative.

OCDD
Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Share your own "I am always" story!
Scan the QR code to download the toolkit or visit:
www.ocdd.org/dd-awareness #DDAWARENESSMONTH

- a hard worker
- a musician
- an athlete
- capable
- courageous
- have integrity
- multitudes
- a baker
- a dancer
- a fighter
- a grandparent
- a powerlifter
- a scout
- a singer
- opening opportunities
- an author
- an employee
- a church member
- patient
- knowledgeable

PEOPLE GOAL OBJECTIVE 2

GROWING LEADERSHIP

People with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters will know how to tell their stories and advocate for what they need.



16K

**16,024 advocacy
bulletins distributed**

344



**People trained in
advocacy skills**



137

**Self-advocates
participated in advocacy
activities and/or trainings**

19



**Events/presentations
about advocacy skills**



— OCDD staff supporting three self-advocates to present about their experiences giving public testimony at the 2025 Inclusive Leadership Summit.

In 2025, OCDD continued supporting people with IDD to develop advocacy and communication skills.

- Staff supported advocates to participate and present at conferences.
- 23 advocates supported to give testimony on 10 bills impacting people with IDD.
- Supported 41 people in 20 legislative meetings.
- Funded statewide travel and accommodations for 9 family members to meet with legislators in 19 meetings with legislators.



— Self-advocate Felicity Woods confidently shares her story at the State Capitol. She was supported by OCDD Advocacy and Leadership Coordinator Hannah Baker.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



OCDD Staff with Oregon Coast advocates

OCDD supported 29 advocates and family members from Coastal Oregon to attend an advocacy day at the State Capitol.

For many of these advocates, this was their first time participating in policy advocacy!

OCDD continued supporting self-advocacy in 2025. Highlights include:

- Ongoing work with the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (OSAC) to develop relationships with self-advocates across the state, including from areas with limited advocacy support, such as rural areas and coastal Oregon.
- Funded OSAC to create self-advocate videos with messaging promoting involvement in advocacy organizations and events such as the Inclusive Leadership Summit.
- Supported self-advocates to submit video testimony when they could not speak in-person.



— Self-advocate Kelsey Hargrove tells lawmakers why the “Right to Repair” her wheelchair is important for supporting her independence.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



“I’m proud of living on my own. I am proud of going to college for four years. I’m proud of being a self-advocate.”

— Fēngxiān Balthazar, Self-Advocates Taking Action

OCDD Funded Self-Advocate YouTube Videos

In her video, self-advocate Fēngxiān tells her story of how advocacy and public speaking training has empowered her to become a keynote speaker and a fierce advocate who shows up for herself and others with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

[View Self-Advocate Video Playlist](#)



9

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 1

SELF- ADVOCACY

Each year, OCDD supports a self-advocacy organization that is led by people with IDD.

OCDD engages, trains, coaches, and guides self-advocates, and supports them to join disability organizations.

10



**Trainings with
advocacy organization
leadership**

10



**Advocates supported to
create video testimony and
advocacy videos.**

9



**One-on-one (1:1)
advocacy trainings with a
self-advocate leader**

OCDD funded a first-of-its kind Spanish Language Resource Guide and distributed it across the state, reaching Spanish speaking individuals, families, case managers, and direct support providers.

The guide features information and contacts for services, programs, medical and mental health services, behavioral health providers, community organizations, respite, and support groups.

Distribution:

- Shared across networks including the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC), ODHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS), Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPs), and case management entities
- ODDS also hosted a live event on its Spanish Facebook channel
- OCDD's listserv and social media
- Handed out at conferences and events



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



“Having a trusted space where we can speak in our language ensures that we have a voice and access to accurate information.

— OCDD Council Members Rosa Belem Ochoa, Paulina Larenas, and Maria Rangel Romero

OCDD supported a Spanish-language Community Listening Session, led by three Spanish-speaking Council members, and attended by 30 families.

Spanish-speaking members of the IDD Community shared their priorities, challenges, and opportunities for improvement in their preferred language. Participants expressed interest in attending future listening sessions in Spanish.

10

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 2

EXPANDING OUR REACH

The Council will better serve Spanish-speaking people with IDD, their families, and communities. OCDD works with partners to reduce cultural and language barriers to information and services.

ENG

ESP

15

**Resource-ambassadors
trained on Spanish-
language DD resources**

10

**Meetings with Spanish-
speaking leaders**

1

**Spanish-language
Community Listening
Session led by
Spanish-speakers**

In 2025, OCDD completed two significant projects, spearheading systems change across the state:



Employment Toolkit for state agencies to use when hiring people with IDD.



Dual Diagnosis Report with recommendations to address service gaps for people with IDD who have co-occurring mental health needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

6

Assistive technology access trainings provided



OCDD collaborated with Community Vision's Assistive Technology Lab to provide 6 trainings, including one Spanish-language training, about assistive technology and how to get it.

100% of trainees who provided feedback shared that they had a better understanding of assistive technology and how to get it.

“We were thrilled to have this opportunity to connect with so many people in our state.

We received overwhelming positive feedback about how clearly the information was presented, the creative problem-solving, and the opportunity to ask questions. People loved the handouts and materials!

— Carrie Luse, Community Vision

Learn more: <https://cv-atlab.org/learn/tech-training>

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 3

INTEGRATED SERVICES & SUPPORTS

The Council works to ensure that service systems promote access to integrated supports for people with IDD to live their lives how they want to within their own communities.

46



Accessible hiring and employment recommendations created



16

Policy, procedure, statute, and/or regulation improvements supported

OCFN OREGON CONSORTIUM OF FAMILY NETWORKS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provided technical assistance to

126

OCFN staff, contributing to:

44,298

Attendees at **268 community events** and **705 community meetings**.

11

1,731

Attendees supported at **191 trainings**, leveraging **306 community partners**

OCDD continues ongoing work to keep people with IDD and families informed about potential natural disasters and health and safety concerns and remove barriers to support that may impact people with IDD and their families in Oregon.

In 2025, OCDD submitted public comment and recommendations to improve the Oregon Health Authority's Crisis Care Guidelines.

Recommendations with Statewide Impacts

These guidelines are followed by medical professionals in the case of an emerging health care emergency, such as biological or natural disasters.



SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 4

EMERGENT DISASTER NEED

Each year, the Council identifies disasters that may impact the health, safety, and well-being of people with IDD and their families, and takes action when needed.



**Oregonians with IDD
impacted by implemented
recommendations.**



**Recommendations
adopted to improve Crisis
Care for people with IDD**

Together with the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Oregon and Oregon Health and Science University, OCDD created training spaces where self-advocates taught upcoming health and education professionals.

- OCDD structured these trainings in a way that was more accessible for self-advocates who live in rural Oregon, and who use assistive communication technology.
- **100% of trainees understood the experiences of people with IDD in healthcare settings**

OCDD also supported Disability Rights Oregon's 2025 Partners in Policymaking (PIP) cohort by providing funding and trainings on advocacy skills.

- There were 22 graduates in 2025!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Four Spanish speaking PIP graduates shared their experiences to families at the Oregon Consortium of Family Networks May 2025 quarterly meeting. The graduates shared how completing the PIP program empowered them to become more involved in advocacy.

“

After graduating, I would like to participate more actively where decisions are made.



— PIP Graduates:
Marianne Martinez,
Rosa Maria Hernandez,
Karina Larrondo,
Rosa Belem Ochoa

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 5 DD NETWORK COLLABORATION

The Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (OIDD) Network Partners create accessible information and trainings, support educators and healthcare workers about disability language and healthcare rights of people with IDD, and address challenges to accessing health and mental health services.



40

**Health and education
professionals trained**

22

**Self-advocates
participated in trainings
with the health and
education professionals**

NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

In 2025, we **collected nearly 800 responses to our five-year plan public input survey**—Far exceeding typical response trends and providing one of the most robust public input datasets the Council has collected! Here's a snapshot of what people want us to prioritize in our next state plan:

PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY RESULTS What Should OCDD's Priorities Be?



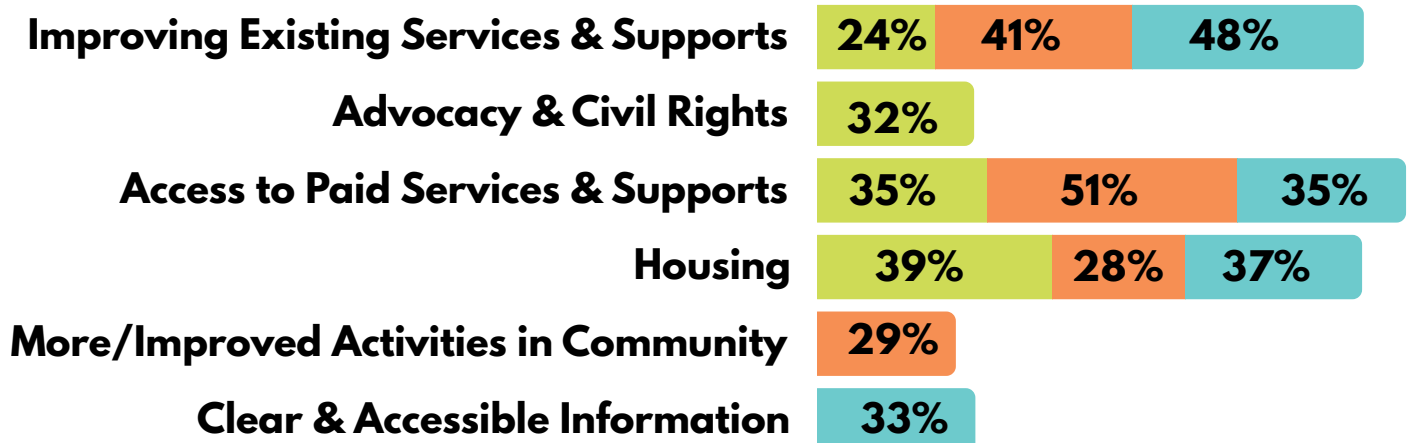
ALL RESPONSES



“The quality of care to persons experiencing IDD is dramatically reduced when skilled direct support/caregivers are paid less than surviving wages.”

— Self-Advocate Response

● Self-Advocates ● Family Members ● Professionals



COUNCIL MEMBERS



Kelly McCauley
Chair



Eddie Plourde
Vice Chair
(2024-2026)



Dr. Jennifer Camota Luebke
Vice Chair
(2026-2028)

Self-advocate Representatives

Kelly McCauley, Chair
Eddie Plourde, Vice Chair
Felicity Woods
Cainan Molzer
Heber Vasquez Contreras

Family Member Representatives

Dr. Jennifer Luebke
Joe Carroll
Jodi Seale
John Saito
Maria Rangel Romero
Paulina Larenas
Randall Wagenmann
Rosa Belem Ochoa

OIDD Network Partner Representatives

Dr. Christen Knowles
University of Oregon (UCEDD)
Rhonda Eppelsheimer
Oregon Health & Science University (UCEDD)
Jake Cornett
Disability Rights Oregon (Protection and Advocacy Organization)

Community Partners and Agency Representatives

Corissa Neufeldt
Oregon Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities Program
Pennie Hartley
Vocational Rehabilitation
Kristen Darmody
Oregon Health Authority
Laura Petschauer
Oregon Department of Education
Dr. Benjamin Hoffmann
Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs
Krista Smith
IDD Services Provider
Daniel Peccia
Oregon Community Brokerages
Kirsten Oster
Community Developmental Disability Program
Caitlyn Shockley
Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Current OCDD Members as of May 1st, 2026

COUNCIL STAFF



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities



Brent Watkins

Interim Executive Director
brent.watkins@ocdd.org



Matt Serres

Public Policy Director
matt.serres@ocdd.org



Hannah Baker

Advocacy and Leadership
Development Coordinator
hannah.baker@ocdd.org



Johanne Regunathan

Communications and Community
Engagement Specialist
johanne.regunathan@ocdd.org



Kate Thompson

Operations Administrator
kate.thompson@ocdd.org

There are
many benefits to
being a Council
member.



**Join the
Council Today!**

**Call or email us for an
application.**

**For more information
scan the QR Code below
or visit:**

**[www.ocdd.org/become
-a-council-member/](http://www.ocdd.org/become-a-council-member/)**



FOLLOW US ON



@OrCouncilDD



oregon-council-on-
developmental-disabilities



@orddcouncil.bsky.social



(971) 225-3659



www.ocdd.org



info@ocdd.org

This annual report is 100% funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial award totaling \$860,782. The contents of this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.