

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council Five-Year Plan

Goals and Objectives 2027-2031

The New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is pleased to announce that the draft 2027–2031 Five-Year Plan is now available for public review and comment.

The Five-Year Plan outlines the Council’s goals and objectives to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families throughout New Mexico. Over the next five years, the Council will focus on strengthening partnerships, increasing education and awareness, and advancing opportunities that promote inclusion, self-determination, and community participation.

The goals and objectives included in this draft plan were developed through outreach and feedback from individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members, advocates, service providers, and community partners from across New Mexico. Their experiences, priorities, and recommendations helped shape the Council’s vision and areas of focus for the next five years.

NM DDC invites individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, service providers, educators, tribal communities, and other stakeholders to review the draft plan and provide feedback.

The public comment period will remain open for 45 calendar days and will close on **July 16, 2026**.

Comments and recommendations may be submitted by email to: DDC5YP@ddc.nm.gov.

To view NM DDC’s current 5-Year Plan, please visit: www.nmddpc.com/5_year_plan

We appreciate your participation and look forward to hearing your ideas as we work together to build a stronger and more inclusive New Mexico.

GOAL 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Individuals with developmental disabilities will experience improved access to equitable, high-quality healthcare and community-based services through increased provider knowledge, enhanced communication supports, and expanded access to disability-informed services across the lifespan.

Objectives:

- **1.1:** Increase healthcare provider understanding of developmental disabilities across the lifespan, with a focus on improving care in rural and tribal communities.
- **1.2:** Improve communication between individuals with developmental disabilities and healthcare providers by expanding accessible communication tools, advocacy supports, and person-centered practices.

- **1.3:** Increase access to disability-informed healthcare navigation by sponsoring neurodivergent peer support services and supporting policies that strengthen and grow the direct support workforce.
- **1.4:** Improve knowledge of available support services for individuals with developmental disabilities at all life stages, with targeted focus on aging adults and rural communities with limited access to care and resources.

GOAL 2: SELF-DETERMINATION, ADVOCACY, AND LEADERSHIP

Individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and community stakeholders will have increased knowledge, skills, and opportunities to advocate for policy and system change that improves access to services, supports, and inclusive community living.

Objectives:

- **2.1:** Increase the number of trained self-advocates, family members, and community leaders engaged in systems change and policy advocacy through partnerships with state agencies, non-profits, and local community leaders.
- **2.2:** Strengthen the capacity of individuals and organizations to influence local, state, and tribal policies.
- **2.3:** Expand partnerships with UCEDD, universities, tribal colleges, and advocacy organizations to support advocacy and leadership development statewide for people with developmental disabilities with an emphasis on rural, frontier, and tribal areas.

GOAL 3: EDUCATION

Students with developmental disabilities and their families will have centralized and increased access to accurate, consistent, and culturally and linguistically appropriate information and supports starting at age 14 (or younger), that promote successful transition to adulthood, including supported pathways to graduation and employment, post-secondary education, and independent living.

Objectives:

- **3.1:** Centralize and increase visibility and access to standardized, plain-language transition resources across New Mexico to families and students at the earliest appropriate age (14 years or younger).

- **3.2:** Ensure New Mexico’s students receive the individualized supports, services, and transition planning outlined in their IEPs to successfully meet state graduation requirements and post-school goals.
- **3.3:** Strengthen interagency coordination among the Office of Special Education at the Public Education Department, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and adult service systems across the state to improve educational and employment outcomes.

GOAL 4: FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will be empowered to access support and opportunities they need to build long-term financial security.

Objectives:

- **4.1:** Partner with state agencies and financial programs to increase access to benefits navigation and financial decision-making supports.
- **4.2:** Centralize information on resources and increase financial literacy and awareness.
- **4.3:** Strengthen partnerships supporting long-term financial planning and promoting system improvements.
- **4.4:** Increase awareness of financial rights, protections, and decision-making supports, and promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities.