

# The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council and the Five-Year Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council?**

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council is a (type 1 transfer) board of 23 Governor-appointed, volunteer members. This Council is one of 56 nationwide. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Disabilities “State Councils on Developmental Disabilities are federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their state or territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help these individuals gain more control over their lives.”

## **What laws give the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council authority to operate?**

The legal authority for the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council to operate comes from Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-10.5-201 and Public Law 106—402, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

## **What is the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council’s mission?**

The mission of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council is to advocate for systems change by promoting meaningful person-centered participation, self-determination, and inclusion for all individuals with developmental disabilities.

## **What are the criteria for the membership of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council?**

The criteria for Council members can be found at 42 USC 15025 (b) (C) (1-6)

## **Who provides the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council money to operate?**

Congress creates and approves a federal budget. The money for Developmental Disabilities Councils, which is part of that budget, flows from Congress to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (ACL). Then the money is sent to eligible states and territories. A formula based largely on state population determines the amount of money each state or territory receives.

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council receives no resources from Colorado’s General Fund. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) serves as the home for our Council. Instead of money, CDHS provides in-kind services to the Council (such as processing payroll, providing program accounting, etc.)

## **What is the five-year plan?**

The five-year plan is a written agreement between ACL, the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families about reducing unmet need. The plan guides the work and the spending of the Council.

## **Why does the five-year plan matter?**

The plan matters because it creates an opportunity to reduce the most important unmet needs identified by Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It defines where the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council will direct time, attention, and resources to benefit the Coloradans at the heart of the Council’s mission.

## **When does the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council put the plan into action?**

The plan will be put into action from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2026.

## **Where can I find information about the legislative intent of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights?**

Information about the legislative intent of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act can be found at 42 USC 15001.

## **Where do goals and objectives fit into the plan?**

The goals and objectives provide a framework for the plan by describing the work the Council will accomplish. Plan activities are how the goals and objectives are achieved.

## **How did the Council decide what to include in goals and objectives?**

Between October 1, 2020 and February 15, 2021, the Council collected 559 survey responses about unmet needs from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, guardians, and siblings. Thirty-two more people commented on their unmet needs over three listening sessions during the third week in February. We partnered with the University of Colorado to analyze the collected data and to help us compare national trends about unmet needs with those in Colorado.

Using this information, the Council developed goals based on the five most common themes. To create Colorado's objectives, members scanned objectives on the same themes in plans from other states over the last 10 years. Also, we analyzed answers to open-ended questions on the survey for how often they included certain words and the meaning of the words within the answers.

## **How does the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council accomplish these goals and objectives?**

The Council accomplishes the goals and objectives through plan activities. Council members and staff lead some plan activities. Partner organizations resourced by the Council accomplish others. The Council provides resources for plan activities through competitive granting processes, granting approximately \$400 thousand a year.

## **How long is the comment period?**

Forty-five calendar days (April 30, 2021, through June 14, 2021).

## **What will the Council do with the comments received?**

All comments received will be reviewed by Council members. Based on this review, members will decide whether comments reveal themes and then determine if changes to proposed goals and objectives will be made. On Friday, July 17, 2021, the Council will post an overview of the public input received during the comment period and detail any changes to be made to proposed goals and objectives.

## **How do I comment?**

Between April 30, 2021, through June 14, 2021, send an email titled "Public Comment" to [joelle.brouner@state.co.us](mailto:joelle.brouner@state.co.us). Reasonable accommodation will happily be provided upon request during the comment period. To make a request, please contact Joelle Brouner at the same email address. Please title the message "RA." Thank you.