



UDDC

Policy Priorities

2023

Community Access and Supports: HCBS Waivers & Wait Lists

Ensure people receive the right services at the right time, reduce the HCBS wait list, and enhance available services



CALL TO ACTION

1. Educate lawmakers about the full impact of the wait list.¹ Promote the development of legislation consistent with the goals of inclusive participation, self-determination, personal responsibility, community integration, and independence.²
2. Advocate for systemic changes that provide people with disabilities individualized access to the right services at the right time. Ensure that the amount, duration, and scope of home and community-based services are provided on the basis of individual need identified through a person-centered planning process.²
3. Expand the Limited Supports Waiver. Extend limited supports to youth and young adults to promote early intervention and learn independence skills sooner.¹
4. Support the development of pre-waiver services, including, but not limited to:
 - a. A wait list liaison to serve as a contact person and source of information and support while waiting,
 - b. Help identifying informal and other formal supports, and
 - c. Financial and benefit planning.¹



More than 4,500 Utahns are on waiting lists for home and community-based services waivers.³

Community Access and Supports: Employment

Build capacity and support opportunities for competitive community-integrated employment with an emphasis on inclusion and fair wages



CALL TO ACTION

1. Support “Employment First” policies as a strategy to increase opportunities for competitive integrated employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as the preferred outcome.
2. Support policies that build infrastructure and supports needed to phase out the use of sub-minimum wage including putting in place comprehensive transition services and appropriate safeguards to protect the interests of any people with disabilities affected by this shift.¹
3. Advocate to extend the length of employment supports and expand programs that support people with disabilities to be successful in the workplace and sustain meaningful employment.¹
4. Encourage student participation in, support for, and expansion of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities; including but not limited to: career exploration, workplace readiness, self-advocacy, benefit planning, financial education, and awareness of resources.⁴



CALL TO ACTION

1. Advocate for Medicaid expansion to benefit those with disabilities waiting for waiver services.¹
2. Ensure that community-based first responders (e.g. police, emergency medical services, emergency room personnel) are equipped with knowledge about working with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and who are experiencing a behavioral and/or mental health crisis. Amend policy that limits formal training to Autism Spectrum Disorder to include a broader scope of intellectual and developmental disabilities.



3. Support accessible, affordable, evidence-based healthcare inclusive of medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare policies and services that meet the needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

4. Advocate for improved training for health care professionals about unique issues and best practices when caring for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.¹

Health and Safety

Support better access to quality care, improved safety, and physical and mental health outcomes, and ensure fair and equitable treatment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Reduce health care disparities experienced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



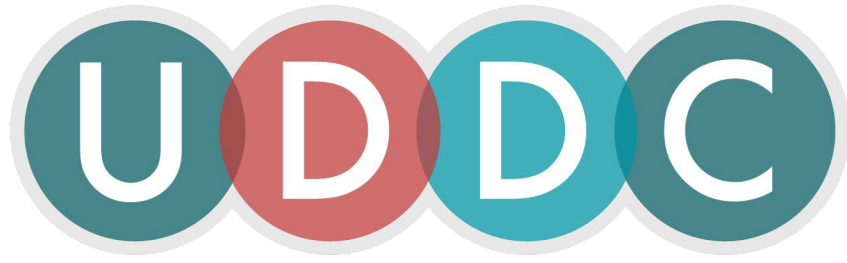
Transportation

Support increased availability of affordable and accessible transportation options throughout the state of Utah

CALL TO ACTION

1. Advocate for appropriate individualized transportation options to ensure community integration.
2. Ensure the availability of accessible, affordable, accountable, and flexible transportation through use of Federal Transit Administration 5310 funds and other funding mechanisms available in Utah.
3. Expand mobility management and travel training services for individuals with disabilities in order to create more public and private coordinated transportation systems.
4. Ensure accessibility in and around transit locations and in public rights of way (e.g. sidewalks, street crossings, etc.).





Utah Developmental Disabilities Council™

MISSION

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council supports and empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve inclusive, meaningful, and self-determined lives in their communities through its ongoing support of leadership, education, policy, and advocacy actions.

5296 S Commerce Drive, Suite 305 Murray, UT 84107
(801) 245-7350
uddc@utah.gov

REFERENCES

1. End the Wait 2020 Survey Data Summary Sheet. Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, 2020. <https://utahddcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/End-the-Wait-Survey-Data-Summary-Sheet.pdf>
2. Public Policy Agenda For the 117th Congress 2021 – 2022. National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. <https://www.nacdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/117th-Public-Policy-Agenda-Booklet-Single-Page-2-23-2021.pdf>
3. People Receiving Ongoing And Waiting List Services, 2022. <https://dspd.utah.gov/people-receiving-ongoing-and-waiting-list-services/>
4. Pre-Employment Transition Services. Utah Department of Workforce Services, 2022. <https://jobs.utah.gov/usor/vr/services/student/preemploy.html>