

Utah Developmental
Disabilities Council™



2025 Impact Report

2025 UDDC Members

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Pictured on cover: UDDC staff Eric Stoker and Speakers' Network staff Natalie Green

2022-2026 Goals

Goal 1: Health and Safety

The UDDC will support physical and mental health and safety outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Goal 2: Transportation

The UDDC will support the increase of access and availability of accessible and affordable transportation options throughout the state of Utah.

Goal 3: Leadership and Advocacy

The UDDC will improve Utah public policy by developing self, community, and policy advocacy skills of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Goal 4: Community Access and Supports

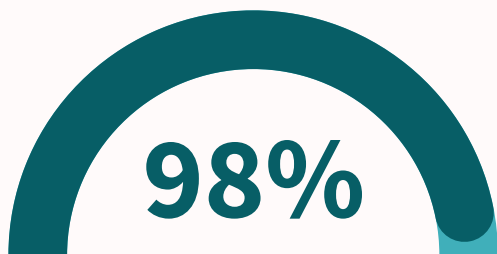
The UDDC will support community access, as well as formal and informal support, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



Pictured: "Stronger Together" Adaptive Boxing Teens

Our 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.



98%
reported improved advocacy skills after participating in UDDC activities during this reporting period.



2,349
People directly participated in UDDC programs.

What We Do

Together, UDDC members work to promote self-determination, community integration, and inclusion. UDDC uses advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities to advance equity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the state of Utah and throughout the United States. The UDDC develops and implements a five-year plan that best suit the needs of the community. Plans can address:



Employment
Health



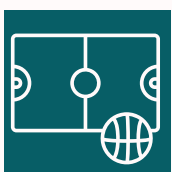
Housing
Transportation



Community Supports
Quality Assurance



Child Care
Education



Early Intervention
Recreation



Pictured: Council member James Steed

Councils on Developmental Disabilities, established in 1970 through the DD Act, are federally funded by the Administration for Community Living. The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC) has many members made up of people with disabilities, their families, and supporting agencies. Over 60% of the UDDC members are individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members. The rest of the Council consists of advocates and state agency representatives. This diverse membership allows for better analysis and improvement of systems and services within Utah, ensuring the voices of people with disabilities and their families are heard.



Our Mission in Action: Focus Areas for 2025

In Federal Fiscal Year 2025, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC) focused its efforts on four critical areas to enhance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families across Utah:

- **Health and Safety:** Improving access to health, wellness, and abuse prevention programs.
- **Transportation:** Addressing issues of access, accessibility, and affordability.
- **Leadership and Advocacy:** Building skills for individuals and families to influence public policy, and to take the lead in their own lives and in their communities.
- **Community Access and Supports:** Promoting inclusive employment and smooth transitions to adulthood.

Goal 1: Health, Wellness, and Safety

The UDDC is committed to improving health outcomes and safety through training and innovative programs.

Key Achievements

- **Healthy Relationships and Abuse Prevention:** We developed a training program focused on healthy relationships, recognizing and preventing abuse, and related topics. Furthermore, we provided funding to the Utah State University Institute for Disability Research, Policy and Practice to create discussion guides for individuals with disabilities and their supporters. These guides are designed to facilitate shared learning about healthy relationships. To further expand this learning and conversation, the Institute also hosted an ECHO Series. ECHO outcomes revealed:



- **Adaptive Sports for Wellness:** With our partner, the Utah Parent Center, we addressed the critical need for comprehensive wellness and behavioral services by launching the Stronger Together Adaptive Boxing program; 57 individuals with I/DD were trained in activities designed to increase healthy lifestyle engagement. Participants showed significant positive outcomes; 100% of participants expressed knowing how to modify exercises to suit their needs and feeling welcome exercising with others after participating.

Goal 3: Leadership and Advocacy

Empowering Advocates

We are building a powerful community of self-advocates and family leaders across Utah.

- Disability Advocacy Day: Co-hosted with our partners, the fifth annual event drew 152 participants, including a focused advocacy training session led by UDDC for 56 individuals.
- Advocacy Leadership and Policy Success (ALPS) Program: This intensive 8-month course graduated 10 participants—seven family members, one person with I/DD, and two professionals.



3,680

Hours of training, learning and skills development across the ALPS program.



92% of all ALPS graduates report a direct increase in their advocacy skills.



100 % of respondents one year post-completion reported they remain engaged in policy advocacy with local and state officials.

Success Story: ALPS in Action

A family member and graduate of the ALPS program, leveraged her new skills in policy analysis and public speaking to secure a position as a peer mentor with a local non-profit serving the Latino community. She now uses the resources and confidence gained from ALPS to help other Spanish-speaking families navigate Utah's complex disability service system,

demonstrating the direct impact of developing diverse community leaders

Goal 2 & 4: Transportation and Community Access

Transportation Equity

We are working to improve transportation access across the state, especially for rural communities.

- Policy Awareness: We published the article "The Impact of Transportation Inequities on Healthcare Access" in the DHHS Utah Health Status Update to inform policymakers and healthcare professionals as well as to share recommendations for improvement.
- Strategic Planning: We are developing a strategic plan to identify 1–3 counties for targeted policy interventions to improve transportation accessibility.
- Improving Paratransit: A Summer Intern worked with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) and the Disability Law Center to educate staff and offer recommendations to simplify the UTA paratransit application process.

Employment and Transition

We are promoting competitive, integrated employment and improving the transition to adulthood for youth with disabilities.

- Employment Advocacy: We successfully trained 16 business leaders on employment advocacy and utilizing Employment First resources.
- Transition to Adulthood: The UDDC is an active participant in the Statewide Transition Collaborative (STC), which includes 32 organizations and 12 local education authorities, to create a unified vision and resources for postsecondary transition.

Input on National Priorities: What We Need from Federal Partners

The UDDC highlights three critical, nationwide issues that require federal action:

1. **Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Crisis:** The shortage of DSPs is a growing issue for access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). We propose a partnership between Administration for Community Living (ACL), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and Department of Labor (DOL) to enhance working conditions, improve training, and create better career pathways for DSPs.
2. **Eliminating Sub-minimum Wages (14c):** Many Utah organizations still hold 14c certificates, allowing them to pay people with I/DD below the minimum wage. We recommend that ACL, DOL, and Department of Justice review this provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
3. **Support for Family Caregivers:** The UDDC is advocating for increased efforts to require states to provide resources and supports for the vital role of unpaid family caregivers.

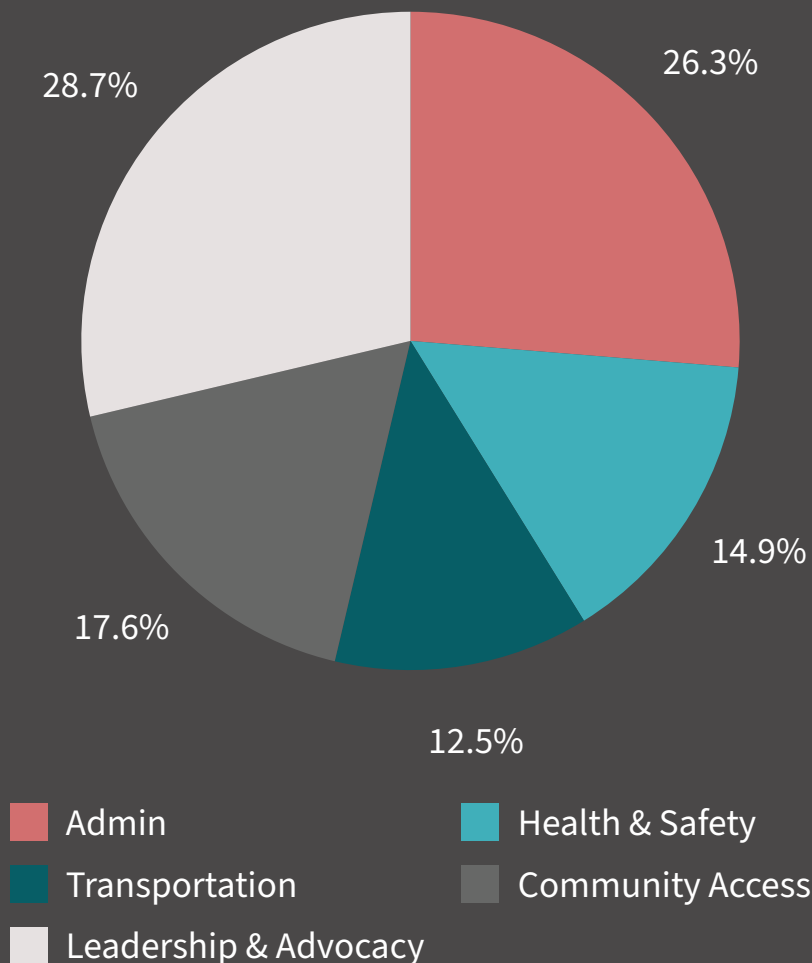
Our Vision

“A world where everyone has what they need to get what they want from life.”



Pictured: Conference attendees

Our Impact



2025 Budget
\$670,098



Utah Developmental
Disabilities Council.

Contact Us



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To request a copy of this report in an alternative format, please contact the UDDC office at uddc@utah.gov or (801) 245-7350

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Pictured: Speakers' Network staff Kayci and Carl present about Identity First Language.

