

2012 – 2017 AIDD Strategic Framework

Disability is a Natural Part of the Human Experience...



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present to you the *Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' 2012–2017 Strategic Framework*. As the Commissioner for the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), public outreach and strategic planning are critically important items on my agenda. This framework represents the culmination of work including 5 regional listening sessions around the country and over four thousand public comments gathered electronically. I have been honored to hear how you - self-advocates, family members, allies, and professionals - describe your vision of the future for individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you for collaborating with us throughout this process.

At AIDD we realize that there are many complex issues affecting people with disabilities -- implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the new economic reality of states, persistent unemployment, education reform efforts, and our aging population -- these are only a fraction of the significant changes that are shaping the future. As you review this document you will see the five priorities in our AIDD strategic framework are bold and seek to positively impact outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, while addressing challenges and opportunities in the current context.

As we move forward with implementing this strategic framework, AIDD will do so as part of the recently formed Administration for Community Living (ACL) at HHS. With the creation of this operating division at HHS, we are reinforcing our commitment to people with disabilities by bringing together key HHS organizations and offices dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and older adults into one coordinated, focused and stronger entity.

The Administration on Community Living will seek to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers by enhancing and improving the broad range of supports that people need to live with respect and dignity as fully participating members of their communities.

Thank you again for your continued commitment and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

All the best,

Sharon Lewis
Commissioner
Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the DD Act is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs authorized under the Act.

The AIDD provides national leadership, funding, and technical support to the Developmental Disabilities Network (DD Network). The DD Network includes:

- State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils)
- Protection and Advocacy Systems (P & As)
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDDs)
- and Projects of National Significance (PNS)

It is the responsibility of this network to provide advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities. Today, there are many complex issues affecting people with disabilities across the country—implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the new economic reality of the states, persistent unemployment, education reform efforts, and our aging population. These are only a small sample of the significant changes that are shaping the future. Additionally, thanks to many years of hard work by advocates, families, and communities, the realities of people with developmental disabilities have positively evolved in recent decades, including:

- Moving beyond simple integration and participation, into community interdependence and meaningful belonging;
- High expectations in educational outcomes, including access to college;
- Technology that is changing the landscape and providing countless new opportunities;
- Employment and economic self-sufficiency as achievable hopes and dreams including for individuals with developmental disabilities;
- ...and many other cultural, programmatic, service and social changes.

Beginning in 2010, the AIDD embarked on a collaborative process to collect public input to be considered for our five year Strategic Framework. This process was titled “Envisioning the Future.” Through this process, individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, professionals and other stakeholders had the opportunity to provide direct input to AIDD through a variety of mechanisms, including:

- Regional Listening Sessions (Philadelphia, Orlando, Dallas, Detroit and Denver)
- Regional Prioritization Sessions (accompanied the regional listening sessions and identified critical themes)
- On-line Testimonies



Over 600 stakeholders attended the Regional Listening Sessions with two hundred in-person testimonies provided. The AIDD also received over four thousand on-line testimonies which included input on the topics of childhood, adulthood, aging and supports.

In October 2010, the AIDD awarded The Arc of the United States \$1.87 million for fiscal year 2010 to establish a National Resource and Information Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities. The Autism NOW Project (<http://www.autismNOW.org>) is collaborating with several partners, including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Autism Society of America and several AIDD Network entities (UCEDDs, DD Councils and P&As), to engage and leverage a national network of disability, aging, and family organizations. The Center provides high-quality resources and information related to community-based experiences (e.g. education, employment, recreation, transportation, early intervention and child care), and evidence-based interventions for ASD service providers, researchers, families and people with ASD.

Over the course of the first year, the Center held five regional summits across the country for people with ASD and parents of children with ASD. Approximately 1,000 people attended the summits. Summit attendees had the opportunity to hear from key regional leaders and self-advocates. Breakout sessions on a variety of topics were held and included topics such as: community services, family and sibling advocacy, employment, and living situations in the community for individuals with ASD and other developmental disabilities. State-wide organizations provided resource information at the summits. The Center routinely holds nation-wide educational events such as the bi-weekly webinars and parent-to-parent town hall meetings for families addressing issues relating to autism and other developmental disabilities.

In addition to the *Envisioning the Future* public input and Regional Summits described above; AIDD also took into account other sources of information when developing the Strategic Framework priorities, such as some of the following events, reports and input:

- The Department's Community Living Stakeholder Dialogues/Listening Sessions
- National Council on Disability's *Rising Expectations: The Developmental Disabilities Act Revisited Report*
- *National Independent Study of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities Programs*
- *Keeping the Promise: Self Advocates Defining the Meaning of Community Living Paper*
- *Realizing the Intent of the DD Act: How the DD Network Advances Independence, Productivity, and Integration of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Report*
- *Envisioning the Future: Allies in Self-Advocacy Report*
- *Advancing the National Agenda for Family Support Report*
- *Segregated & Exploited: A Call to Action! The Failure of the Disability Service System to Provide Quality Work*
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities' *The Time is Now: Embracing Employment First* report
- 2011 Self-Advocacy Summits
- *Autism Now Outreach*
- Contributions from the AIDD's staff and other federal partners.

AIDD's Strategic Framework acknowledges the complexity of the current environment, while striving to maintain the progress gained by the community. We cannot waver on issues of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

This Strategic Framework establishes the following priorities:

Priority 1: Ensuring the continued protection of the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and preventing their abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Priority 2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to access home and community-based services and supports that ensure opportunity for full and meaningful community participation.

Priority 3: Promoting "employment first" as a key strategy for individuals with developmental disabilities to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive, integrated workforce.

Priority 4: Supporting the advocacy efforts of individuals with developmental disabilities in order to ensure participation in system and service delivery design.

Priority 5: Maintaining effective and responsive management of the DD Act programs.

Like the HHS Strategic Plan, the AIDD's Strategic Framework does not encompass all of the activities carried out by the agency. It is designed, instead, to describe the agency's priorities and provide an overall framework to guide its fiscal and staff investments. This Strategic Framework supports the HHS Strategic Plan (Appendix B).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) would like to express appreciation to all the individuals around the country who participated in the *Envisioning the Future* process in-person, on-line, and through various correspondences. In particular, we extend our thanks to all of the self-advocates and family members for their important contributions. Thank you for sharing your insights, research, passion and commitment for the best possible future for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.



Envisioning the Future Regional Session Participants, Detroit, MI.

ABOUT AIDD

Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of the United States society.



Our Mission

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally-competent needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

The Goals of the Nation

As defined in the DD Act, the goals of the Nation properly include a goal of providing individuals with developmental disabilities with the information, skills, opportunities, and support to:

- make informed choices and decisions about their lives;
- live in homes and communities in which such individuals can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens;
- pursue meaningful and productive lives;
- contribute to their families, communities, and States, and the Nation;
- have interdependent friendships and relationships with other persons;
- live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights; and
- achieve full integration and inclusion in society, in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities of each individual

Core Principles

The DD Act upholds the following core principles:

- individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most severe developmental disabilities, are capable of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, but often require the provision of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance;
- individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged, and any assistance to such individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of such individuals;



- individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decision-makers regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive, including regarding choosing where the individuals live from available options, and play decision-making roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of such individuals and their families;
- services, supports, and other assistance should be provided in a manner that demonstrates respect for individual dignity, personal preferences, and cultural differences;
- specific efforts must be made to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds and their families enjoy increased and meaningful opportunities to access and use community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance available to other individuals with developmental disabilities and their families;
- recruitment efforts in disciplines related to developmental disabilities relating to pre-service training, community training, practice, administration, and policymaking must focus on bringing larger numbers of racial and ethnic minorities into the disciplines in order to provide appropriate skills, knowledge, role models, and sufficient personnel to address the growing needs of an increasingly diverse population;
- with education and support, communities can be accessible to and responsive to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and are enriched by full and active participation in community activities, and contributions, by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families;
- individuals with developmental disabilities have access to opportunities and the necessary support to be included in community life, have interdependent relationships, live in homes and communities, and make contributions to their families, communities, and States, and the Nation;
- efforts undertaken to maintain or expand community-based living options for individuals with disabilities should be monitored in order to determine and report to appropriate individuals and entities the extent of access by individuals with developmental disabilities to those options and the extent of compliance by entities providing those options with quality assurance standards;
- families of children with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of safe and appropriate child care and before-school and after-school programs, in the most integrated settings, in order to enrich the participation of the children in community life;
- individuals with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of public transportation, in order to be independent and directly contribute to and participate in all facets of community life; and
- individuals with developmental disabilities need to have access to and use of recreational, leisure, and social opportunities in the most integrated settings, in order to enrich their participation in community life.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

It is the responsibility of the DD Network to provide advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities. Despite the complexities and trials of the current environment, we must keep the commitment articulated in the DD Act, and to maintain the progress achieved by the community since the inception of the DD Act in 1963. We must continue to advance the goals of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. This Strategic Framework provides a guidepost to help foster continued progress and, as such, the Reporting section (Appendix A) of the Strategic Framework will be updated and published annually and will highlight how we are meeting our obligation to our stakeholders and to the public.



I have lived in 4 different institutions and then 8-9 different group homes before finally moving into my own place through Self-Determination... I am now happily married (our 13th anniversary will be in May)... I love to travel and I love the apartment my wife and I share in the community. My wife and I continue to self-direct our supports using the tools of Self-Determination, and we are leading healthy, happy lives just like anyone else would want.

— Envisioning the Future Participant



<p>Priority 1: Ensuring the continued protection of the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation.</p>	
Strategies for Implementation	Increasing the safety, and decreasing violence and preventing abuse, neglect, exploitation, harassment and bullying of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
	Ensuring access to sufficient, high-quality health and social supports to protect each person’s health, safety, rights and well-being.
	Ensuring services and supports and other assistance are provided in a culturally competent manner that includes individuals from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds in all activities provided under the DD Act.
	Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities when accessing home and community-based services and supports that are self-directed and ensuring opportunity for full, meaningful community participation.
<p>Priority 2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to access home and community-based services and supports that ensure opportunity for full and meaningful community participation.</p>	
Strategies for Implementation	Increasing self-determination and personal control in decisions affecting individuals with developmental disabilities through person-centered planning/thinking.
	Ensuring families have knowledge and skills to navigate the systems, advocate for their children and young adults, and access both paid and natural supports in the community. Educating parents/caregivers about the possibilities for the future, self-determination, choice, and transportation opportunities, such as postsecondary school.
	Continuing to advance community-based systems change that enables individuals with developmental disabilities to participate fully in community life.
	Empowering individuals and families to plan for and utilize traditional, natural, and emerging supports throughout the lifespan.
	Enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to live in homes and communities of their choosing through flexible service models and consumer-directed approaches.
<p>Priority 3: Promoting "employment first" as a key strategy for individuals with developmental disabilities to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive, integrated workforce.</p>	
	Encouraging and supporting policies that support individuals with developmental disabilities to move out of poverty by significantly increasing opportunities for real work with real pay.



Strategies for Implementation	Enhancing the employment supports system to better serve persons with developmental disabilities, including reducing benefits barriers and increasing employment support services.
	Emphasizing employment and economic, self-sufficiency outcomes through interagency collaboration.
	Engaging with our federal partners to support competitive and integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.
Priority 4: Supporting the advocacy efforts of individuals with developmental disabilities in order to ensure participation in system and service delivery design.	
Strategies for Implementation	Facilitating engagement and communication between individuals with developmental disabilities and federal agencies to inform programs and policies.
	Facilitating the continued progression of the self-advocacy movement, aiding individuals in leading self-determined lives.
	Promoting inclusion of people with most significant disabilities, including those un-served and under-served, inclusive of ethnicity, and low-income individuals, in self-advocacy.
	Engaging the DD Network and self-advocacy organizations in each state to work collaboratively to strengthen organized self-advocacy groups and coalitions.
Priority 5: Maintaining effective and responsive management of the DD Act Programs.	
Strategies for Implementation	Continuing to improve the planning and assessment efforts of the DD Network.
	Collaborating with federal agencies regarding improving systems of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
	Coordinating and supporting the development, evaluation and dissemination of best practices for use by the DD Network programs and the developmental disabilities field.
	Continuing efforts to improve Program Performance Reports (PPR) and performance measurement to ensure AIDD is collecting the most useful transparent, relevant information possible from grantees.

“Beyond the opportunity to earn wages, other benefits of integrated employment include expanded social relationships, higher job satisfaction, improved self-worth, transferable work skills, and increased self-determination.”

—Commissioner Sharon Lewis



ADMINISTRATION ON
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APPENDICES



A. REPORTING

Priority 1: Ensuring the continued protection of the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation.

		2012	Examples of Implementation Efforts	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Strategies for Implementation	Increasing the safety, and decreasing violence and preventing abuse, neglect, exploitation, harassment and bullying of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.	x	In addition to the P&A systems' approaches and strategies used, programs across the DD Network are working with programs, organizations, and staff in the criminal justice community to increase safety. Examples include training first responders, police officers and emergency room personnel, among others to improve their ability to appropriately support individuals with disabilities in emergency situations.					
	Ensuring access to sufficient, high-quality health and social supports to protect each person's health, safety, rights and well-being.	x	Many UCEDDs across the Network are training future health professionals to ensure practitioners are prepared to address the individual needs and desired outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.					
	Ensuring services and supports and other assistance are provided in a culturally competent manner that includes individuals from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds in all activities provided under the DD Act.	x	AIDD grantees work across a variety of communities to make sure they reach and engage diverse participants in their work. One way in which grantees are addressing this is to increase the diversity of the staff working within programs.					
	Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities when accessing home and community-based services and supports that are self-directed and ensuring opportunity for full, meaningful community participation.	x	State DD Councils participate in a variety of coalitions, state-level committees and commissions to promote access to self-directed home and community-based services and supports.					

Priority 2: Empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to access home and community-based services and supports that ensure opportunity for full and meaningful community participation.

<p>Increasing self-determination and personal control in decisions affecting individuals with developmental disabilities through person-centered planning/thinking.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD funds the “National Gateway to Self-Determination” project. This project is a web-based clearinghouse with resources, training and information on self-determination and is geared towards assisting self-advocates, professionals, policy-makers and the general public on current best practices and evidence-based activities.</p>					
<p>Ensuring families have knowledge and skills to navigate the systems, advocate for their children and young adults, and access both paid and natural supports in the community. Educating parents/caregivers about the possibilities for the future, self-determination, choice, and transportation opportunities, such as postsecondary school.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD funds five “Family Support and Community Access Demonstration Projects” under the PNS program. These grants support family support demonstration projects that rely on collaborative efforts and community-based solutions to reach un-served and underserved families, and to encourage systemic change and improved community capacity to support families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Additionally, AIDD funds, “Think College,” a Consortium that conducts research, provides training and technical assistance, and disseminates information on promising practices that support individuals to increase their independence, productivity, and inclusion through access to postsecondary education, resulting in improved long-term independent living and employment outcomes.</p>					
<p>Continuing to advance community-based systems change that enables individuals with developmental disabilities to participate fully in community life.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Many AIDD grantees support “Partners in Policymaking” training programs to advance the skills of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to advocate for their rights to supports in the community and how to access them.</p>					
<p>Empowering individuals and families to plan for and utilize traditional, natural, and emerging supports throughout the lifespan.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>The “Data Collection for Supporting Families Project” examines data from the services and supports provided to families who have a family member living in the home. Guided by a family expert panel, the project will implement an annual data collection effort that produces reliable national and state-by-state data about family supports using strategies designed to ensure that the information reported by states is accurate and comparable across states.</p>					



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	Enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to live in homes and communities of their choosing through flexible service models and consumer-directed approaches.	x	AIDD funds the “National Residential Information System Project: Ongoing Data Collection and Information Dissemination on Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.” This project continues more than 20 years of analysis of annual state-by-state and national statistics on residential services for people with developmental disabilities, including state and non-state institutional settings and community and home-based residential services.					
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Priority 3: Promoting "employment first" as a key strategy for individuals with developmental disabilities to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive, integrated workforce.

<p>Encouraging and supporting policies that support individuals with developmental disabilities to move out of poverty by significantly increasing opportunities for real work with real pay.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD has funded eight "Partnerships in Employment Systems Change" grants. Consortia engage in state partnerships and systems change efforts that will contribute to the development of policies that support competitive employment in integrated settings as the first and desired outcome for youth and young adults with DD including ID and will enhance statewide collaborations that can facilitate the transition process secondary and post-secondary school, or other pre-vocational training settings, to competitive employment integrated settings.</p>					
<p>Enhancing the employment supports system to better serve persons with developmental disabilities, including reducing benefits barriers and increasing employment support services.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD established a Training and Technical Assistance Center for the eight "Partnerships for Employment Systems Change" projects. This project will facilitate a comprehensive assessment of policy and practice in each participating state at the start of the project to support work plan development and to identify existing expertise and common needs for state-to-state collaboration. Permanent products will include longitudinal cross state analysis of data on factors that support and impede systems change efforts, a High Performing Transition Model state self-assessment toolkit, a performance benchmarking toolkit, community of practice reports and recommendations, topical webinars for demand use, and resource library of model documents and tools including MOUs, policies, and service tools.</p>					
<p>Emphasizing employment and economic, self-sufficiency outcomes through interagency collaboration.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD staff are engaged with an interagency workgroup formed to increase the knowledge base to understand how individuals with disabilities achieve economic success through employment, and our agencies have purview over policies and programs that strive to address this important policy goal in some day. It is through combining our best thinking and resources that we can continue to best collaborate as federal partners.</p>					
<p>Engaging with our federal partners to support competitive and integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>AIDD participates in federal panels addressing interagency collaboration around competitive and integrated employment. AIDD is an important partner in the Community Living Initiative Employment Workgroup led by the HHS ACL Office on Disability. The Workgroup's goals include the development of options for workers with disabilities and/or chronic conditions to gain wraparound home and community-based services and supports to maintain employment.</p>					



Priority 4: Supporting the advocacy efforts of individuals with developmental disabilities in order to ensure participation in system and service delivery design.

Strategies for Implementation	Facilitating engagement and communication between individuals with developmental disabilities and federal agencies to inform programs and policies.	x	In collaboration with the DD Network, self advocates and allies, a series of Self-Advocacy Summits were held across the country to promote collaboration, planning and recommendations at the state and national levels. Summits focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support to strengthen self-advocacy. • Promoting inclusion and self-advocacy at the Federal level • Educating people about disability and self-advocacy • Working with other Federal agencies on various issues, including employment, transportation and education. 					
	Facilitating the continued progression of the self-advocacy movement, aiding individuals in leading self-determined lives.	x	AIDD two national training initiatives to UCEDDs; “A National Gateway to Self-Determination,” and the “Consortium to Enhance Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.” One is focused on further enhancing and building self-determination skills and the other is focused on post-secondary education, thereby broadening choices individuals can make about their futures.					
	Promoting inclusion of people with most significant disabilities, including those un-served and under-served, inclusive of ethnicity, and low-income individuals, in self-advocacy.	x	The UCEDD Resource Center funded by AIDD at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a special project aimed at improving UCEDDs’ ability to actively engage people with significant disabilities to participate in the Consumer Advisory Committee process and other aspects of UCEDD work.					
	Engaging the DD Network and self-advocacy organizations in each state to work collaboratively to strengthen organized self-advocacy groups and coalitions.	x	Each DD Council has a direct requirement to support self-advocacy efforts in the state, either directly or indirectly. DD Councils continue to work in this area, and all State Plans have a goal specifically addressing self-advocacy efforts.					

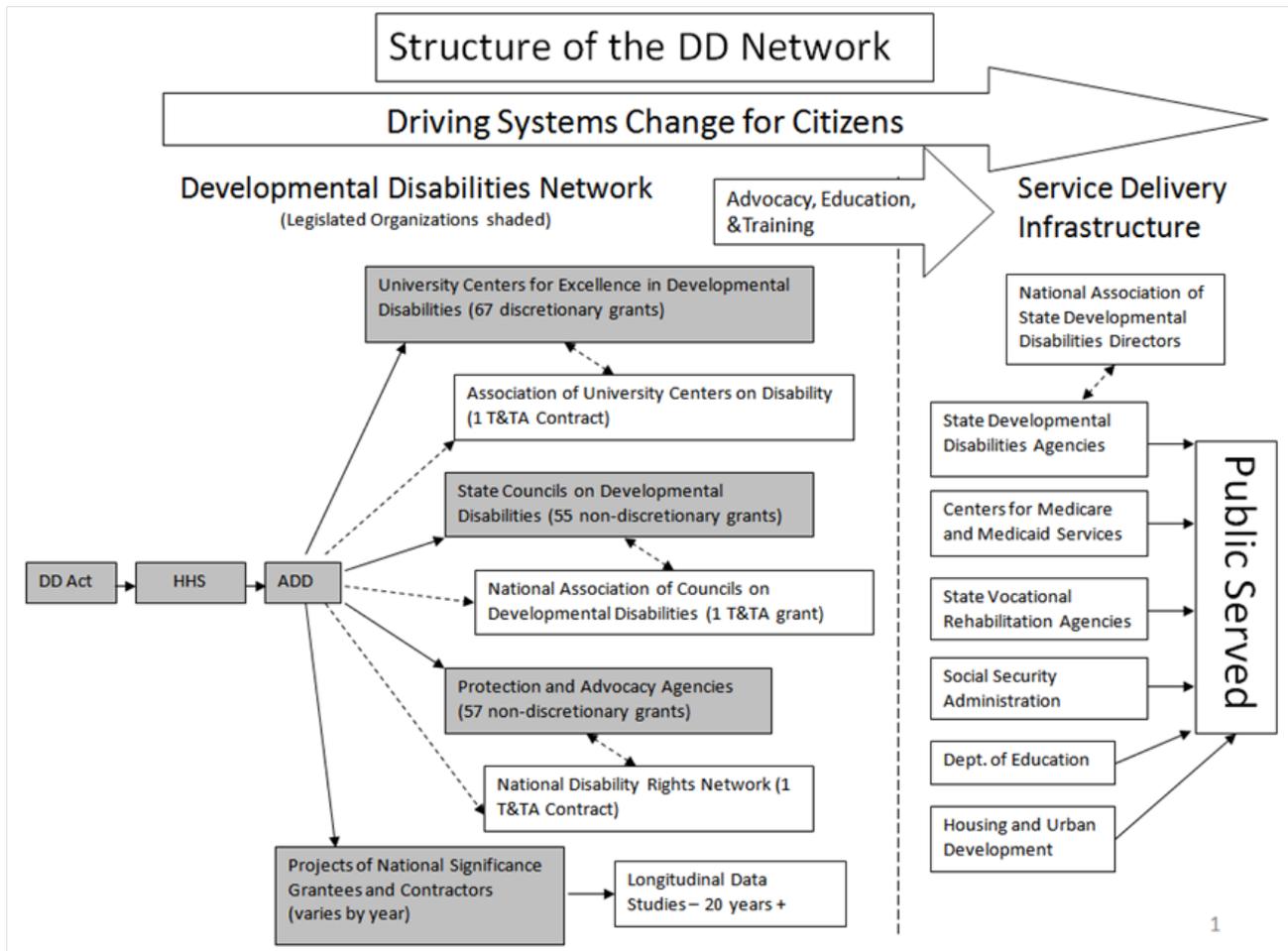
Priority 5: Maintaining effective and responsive management of the DD Act Programs.

Strategies for Implementation	Continuing to improve the planning and assessment efforts of the DD Network.	x	AIDD collaborated with the State DD Councils to make improvements to the 5-year State Plan Template, and for the first time to initiate a peer review process to strengthen collaborative efforts and produce high quality plans. AIDD is also working with the P&As to make revisions to the Statement of Goals and Priorities. It is expected that this will result in a better planning document for the P&As that conveys meaningful and useful information about the P&As' focus for the year. Also, AIDD is collaborating with a representative group of UCEDD faculty and staff to strategically review and revise the reporting template. The Workgroup has developed new annual and long-term measures for assessing the outcomes and achievements of the network.					
	Collaborating with federal agencies regarding improving systems of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.	x	AIDD is increasing its presence through collaboration with other federal partners: ODEP, CMS, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), SSA, Department of Defense (DoD) and others. For example, AIDD participates in the Department of Transportation's United We Ride Emergency Preparedness Working Group. AIDD also has an employee detailed from the DoD to support AIDD through September 2012. And, via webinar, AIDD presented "An Overview of the AIDD and the DD Network" to military families with special needs and service providers.					
	Coordinating and supporting the development, evaluation and dissemination of best practices for use by the DD Network programs and the developmental disabilities field.	x	AIDD continually supports the promotion of best practices through technical assistance projects, identifying promising practices in the field and disseminating information using a variety of strategies. AIDD is strategically reviewing its monitoring system to better capture best practices and is exploring how to use peer review processes to identify best practices.					
	Continuing efforts to improve Program Performance Reports (PPR) and performance measurement to ensure AIDD is collecting the most useful transparent, relevant information possible from grantees.	x	AIDD continues to improve PPR and performance measurement to ensure collection of the most useful information possible from grantees, as well as continuing to provide technical assistance to DD Councils on their 5-year State Plans. Also, among ADD's internal administrative efforts, we are working to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase collaboration with the UCEDD community with the new UCEDD Fellow program. • Attend DD organization and grantee conferences. • Assess participation across the Department and with federal agencies to ensure AIDD's participation in important policy discussions that impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. • Review AIDD's website to ensure it is more user friendly and has the most up-to-date information. 					

B. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AIDD'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND HHS' STRATEGIC GOALS

	HHS Strategic Plan FY 2007–2012					
	Goal 1: Transform Health Care	Goal 2: Advance Scientific Knowledge & Innovation	Goal 3: Advance, the Health, Safety, & Well-being of the American People	Goal 4: Increase Efficiency, Transparency, & Accountability of Programs	Goal 5: Strengthen the Nation's Health & Human Services Infrastructure & Workforce	
AIDD Strategic Framework FY 2012–2017	Priority 1: Ensuring the continued protection of the rights of ID/DD & prevent their abuse, neglect & exploitation.			X		
	Priority 2: Empowering ID/DD and their families to access home and community-based services and supports that ensure opportunity for full and meaningful community participation.	X		X	X	X
	Priority 3: Promoting "employment first" as a key strategy for ID/DD to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive, integrated workforce.			X		X
	Priority 4: Supporting the advocacy efforts of ID/DD in order to ensure participation in system and service delivery design.	X		X		
	Priority 5: Maintaining effective and responsive management of the DD Act				X	X

C. STRUCTURE OF THE DD NETWORK



*When meeting someone new, we almost always ask, 'What do you do?' A person's work seems to define who he or she is. It certainly gives people, especially those with disabilities, a sense of self-worth and confidence. With employment comes some level of self-sufficiency, and with that—**independent living**. Without a full or part-time job at reasonable wages, none of this can be realized*

-Ms. Susan Willis



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