

COMMENTS on SCDD 2017-21 Proposed State Plan

Note: In all cases where it says “The Council will work with its federal partners to...”, “The Council and its collaborative federal partners will...”, it is problematic. It is understood that SCDD wants to show AIDD federal partner collaboration, but to make it workable, in all of these cases, suggest re-wording to: “*The Council will, in consultation with its federal partners....*”

All suggested wording changes are in *red italics*:

GOAL 1 – EMPLOYMENT

Californians will receive the necessary information, tools and supports to ~~invest in~~ *support* and increase competitive, integrated employment opportunities for people with I/DD.

1. The Council will identify, create and disseminate supportive, culturally competent strategies that facilitate competitive, integrated employment (CIE) of people with I/DD *and/or access to vocational training and higher education*. Training and outreach will include self-advocates as trainers. ~~Training will include information about accommodations, assistive technology needs, adaptive equipment, and services.~~
(The crossed-out training topics are generally the expertise of SCDD and duplicative of the work of DOR, Assistive Technology Network, pertinent service providers, etc.)
2. The Council will work with its federal partners to develop and support legislation to increase CIE for people with I/DD. ~~This will include the development and dissemination of resources to access vocational training and higher education.~~
(The crossed-out sentence is better rolled into Objective 1 above so that Objective 2 solely focuses on legislation.)
3. The Council will *continue to convene an Employment First Committee and will* collaborate with state and local agencies to collect employment data and monitor/report progress toward all outreach efforts and CIE for people with I/DD.
(The EF Committee is statutorily required to be convened by SCDD.)

GOAL 2 – HOUSING

People with I/DD have access to affordable and accessible housing that provides control, choice and flexibility regarding where and with whom they live.

1. The Council will ~~identify short and long-term housing strategies work with local housing entities to encourage for~~ the development and/or provision of available ~~low-cost~~, *affordable*, safe, fully integrated, *accessible* community housing for people with I/DD.
(The suggested modified wording is more likely to have tangible outcomes. The word “affordable” is more commonly associated with housing that “low-cost.”)
2. The Council will monitor and address barriers to accessible, integrated housing.
3. *The Council will identify and advocate for legislative and regulatory changes designed to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing.*
(This added goal could have a huge impact in improving housing for people with I/DD.)

GOAL 3 – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Californians with I/DD will have increased access to health, public safety, and related services that meet their needs and health care preferences.

1. The Council and its collaborative federal partners will provide training to 1,200 people with I/DD, their families, and caregivers about the availability of and access to health and public safety-related services and supports.
2. The Council, its federal partners, and self-advocates will offer information and at least 20 trainings to law enforcement/court personnel, , health care providers, and/or other care professionals about disability-related health and safety issues. ~~This will include information about assistive technology and augmentative communication.~~
(The last sentence is crossed out as these topics are not the expertise of SCDD and are duplicative of the expertise of other agencies.)
3. The Council and its federal partners will support legislative and other efforts to increase accessibility to health care services, ~~and decrease service disparities in including~~ unserved/underserved populations in California.
(Not measurable as originally written.)

GOAL 4 – EARLY INTERVENTION AND EDUCATION, (TRANSITION & PSE) – People with I/DD and their families will have increased information, training and guidance to obtain inclusive education services throughout the lifespan.

1. The Council and its federal partners will ~~increase the number of children identified for early intervention services through training and dissemination of train and disseminate~~ information on developmental milestones and intervention services ~~for to~~ families and care providers of young children.
(There is no way to measure “increase”; hence modified suggested wording.)
2. The Council will collaborate with its federal partners to provide information, training and technical assistance to professionals and at least 2,000 families and/or self-advocates, at least 750 of whom are ~~Spanish non-English-speaking, so that they are prepared to effectively advocate for~~ regarding appropriate inclusive educational services. ~~Training will include restrictions regarding the use of seclusion and restraint.~~
(“Non-English” allows for broader cultural and linguistic access to this information. The last sentence is not wording for an objective. It is more of a training curriculum/strategy.)
3. The Council will provide information and technical assistance to ~~prepare~~ at least 1,000 students, ~~and/or~~ their families, ~~and/or professionals on to become effective advocates in~~ developing transition plans that address independent living options and PSE/Vocational training, supports and services. ~~These outreach efforts will include professionals.~~
(Tightened up wording slightly. Last sentence deleted as it is now included in first sentence.)

GOAL 5 – FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

People with I/DD and their families have support to access community-based services available to the general population.

1. The Council will solicit data ~~twice per year~~ *annually* from its state and federal partners to identify ~~and respond to~~ disparities and gaps in services for populations of unserved/underserved people with I/DD. *The Council will promote this information to the community and advocate with state and federal partners for the identification of the causes of these disparities and solutions. This will include meeting mandates for providing information in other languages.* (Regional centers provide this data annually. "Respond to" disparities is too vague and Children's Hospital of L.A. has a contract to do the analysis; hence second added sentence suggested. Last sentence crossed out because it is already a requirement in the law and therefore duplicative.)
2. The Council will provide support and training to at least 1,500 people with I/DD and families ~~to implement~~ *regarding* the Self-Determination Program and will convene at least 2 annual meetings of the state Self-Determination Advisory Committee.
3. The Council will establish partnerships with stakeholders to annually monitor the transition process of people with I/DD from institutional to community settings to ensure that appropriate placements and services are available.
4. *The Council will work with its communities to provide information and technical assistance, and will work to improve the quality of and access to services such as regional centers, special education, transportation, benefits, child care, recreational opportunities, etc. for at least 500 people with I/DD.* (This is a suggested added objective as it is central to SCDD's mission and statutory requirement.)

GOAL 6 – Self-Advocacy

People with I/DD and families have the information, skills, opportunities and support to advocate for their rights and services and to achieve independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion in all areas of community life. This will include youth and cross-disability groups.

1. The Council will provide financial and in-kind staff support to family and self-advocates statewide and will annually train 1,500 people with I/DD ~~to become effective in~~ *self-advocacy and service options such as* ~~This will include understanding and accessing opportunities for~~ the Self-Determination Program.
(Tightened up wording. Included second sentence in the first sentence.)
2. The Council will provide train-the-trainer workshops to promote self-advocate leadership within the statewide network, annually preparing at least 50 self-advocates as trainers.
3. The Council and its federal partners will collaborate to ensure that training and materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate. This will include access to assistive technology.