



FINAL GOALS & PRIORITIES FOR 2016-2017

This document represents the Goals & Priorities for Indiana Disability Rights to focus on from October 2016 – September 2017. This document reflects consideration from over 150 public comments.

Please send any written comments regarding this document to ExecutiveDirector@IndianaDisabilityRights.Org or mail them to the attention of the Executive Director at the address below.

These Goals & Priorities were adopted as FINAL by the IPAS Commission on August 27, 2016.

GOAL 1: PREVENTING, FINDING, AND STOPPING ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Investigate and eliminate staff abuse in facilities or by a service provider.
2. Reduce and eliminate staff and medical neglect in facilities or by a service provider.
3. Stop the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in facilities or by a service provider.
4. Ensure appropriate mental health treatment of facility residents.
5. Identify and stop the financial exploitation of individuals with disabilities.

GOAL 2: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND ENSURING SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENSURE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SOCIETY.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Ensure access to a free appropriate public *education* in both a safe and least restrictive environment.
2. Encourage *community integration* of persons with disabilities into inclusive, livable, supportive communities.

Equality Through Advocacy

The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Indiana

4701 N Keystone Ave
Suite 222
Indianapolis IN 46205
IndianaDisabilityRights.org

Phone: 317.722.5555
Toll Free: 800.622.4845
TTY: 800.838.1131
Fax: 317.722.5564



3. Support integrated, community-based, and competitive **employment** of persons with disabilities.
4. Ensure persons with disabilities, from youth through adulthood, are treated appropriately in **justice** settings.
5. Address rights issues in regards to **accessibility** including, but not limited to: physical access, web and technology access, transportation, voting, and conditional rights.

GOAL 3: EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BY SERVING AS A PARTNER IN RIGHTS ISSUES, PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR SELF-ADVOCACY AND BY BRINGING AWARENESS TO SOCIETY TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Educate legislators regarding the impact of policies on people with disabilities.
2. Promote the self-advocacy movement in Indiana.
3. Promote supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship.
4. Meaningfully engage with community partners on issues impacting people with disabilities.
5. Support the development and dissemination of accessible publications and electronic resources.

Systemic Projects

These projects are designed to tackle a larger issue that impacts a group of people. These projects can be more challenging than individual case advocacy, but often result in positive change for hundreds or even thousands of people.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

- Investigate facilities that treat adults for aging, mental illness, and developmental disabilities.
- Investigate facilities that treat children for mental illness and developmental disabilities.
- Investigate effectiveness of state programs designed to protect people from abuse.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Ensure public transportation options are accessible and available.
- Confirm neighborhood and community sidewalks are accessible.
- Ensure community events are accessible.
- Address accessibility at voting registration and polls.



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

- Address issues in Medicaid reform, Medicaid waivers, and Home & Community Based Services plans.
- Reduce discrimination and accessibility issues in housing for people with disabilities.
- Examine the issues impacting people with autism who also have mental illness.
- Assist people living in a facility to move into the community.
- Examine access to health care in rural areas.

EDUCATION

- Ensure that students are not inappropriately segregated out of the general school setting due to a behavioral problem or disability.
- Review the options for students in transition from school to work or college to ensure meaningful choice.
- Investigate schools for compliance with laws regarding the use of restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities.
- Seek a change in restraint and seclusion laws to ensure schools are held accountable.
- Participate in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 to ensure students with disabilities in Indiana are held to appropriate educational standards.

EMPLOYMENT

- Work with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) on issues that impact the ability of persons with disabilities to obtain employment through VR services.
- Address the use of sheltered workshops and sub-minimum wage pay.
- Work with the centers for independent living (INSILC) to ensure access to independent living tools.
- Review employment practices that lead to stigma against applicants and workers with mental illness.
- Have a role in impacting Employment First legislation in Indiana.
- Research assistive technology vendors and determine quality standards of provided tools.

JUSTICE

- Ensure offenders in local jails are provided appropriate mental health and medical treatment.



- Ensure offenders with disabilities have opportunity for employment and education to assist with transition back into the community.
- Support the prosecution of cases involving crimes against people with disabilities.
- Participate in issues related to school-to-prison pipeline concerns.