



**GOVERNOR'S
COUNCIL FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

Council IN Community: We're Here All Year!

Turnstone Summary

COUNCIL IN COMMUNITY: WE'RE HERE ALL YEAR

Summary of Council **IN** Community

Turnstone Session

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Abstract

The Council IN Community Virtual Engagement Session, hosted by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, provided an overview of the Council's mission, State Plan, and the DD act. Participants shared personal strengths and challenges, highlighting the need for greater community education, accessible services, and advocacy. Input from this session will help guide the Council's future State Plan and engagement efforts.

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Why Was Council IN Community (CINC) held?

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD) hosted a virtual training session titled *Council IN Community: We're Here All Year!* This session was designed to inform participants about the Council's mission, vision, activities, and the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act. It further sought to create a space for dialogue on personal strengths, community inclusion, advocacy, and barriers experienced by people with disabilities and their families in Indiana.

Developing a Shared Vision for Indiana

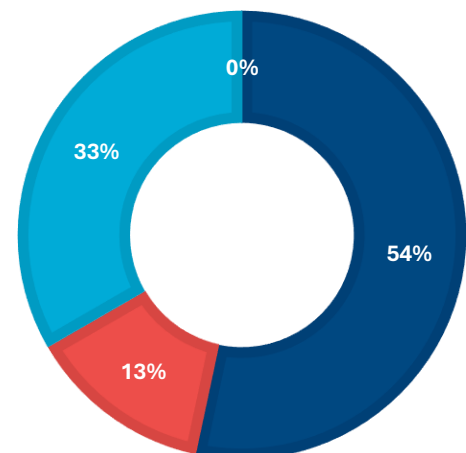
The information collected from every CINC will be summarized and shared with attendees, posted on the Council's website, and shared with the attendees to make sure GCPD staff have accurately captured the themes, ideas, and outcomes from the learning journey.

The Council will use this information to help shape the goals and objectives for the 2027-2032 State Plan, identify program areas, and develop strategies to increase community capacity so that every Hoosier with ID/DD across the lifespan has the freedom and opportunity to live, work, play, learn, and contribute to this great state.

Who Attended?

REGISTERED ATTENDEES

- Person with ID/DD
- Parent, Immediate Family Member or Guardian of a Person with ID/DD
- Professional in the ID/DD Field
- Community Supporter





What Happened at **CINC**?

Objectives

- Introduce participants to the Council's mission, vision, and current five-year state plan.
- Provide an overview of the DD Act and its significance in Indiana.
- Encourage participant dialogue about personal and community strengths, barriers, and opportunities for inclusion.
- Gather input to inform Council reports, advocacy priorities, and community engagement strategies.

Participant Engagement and Input

Participants actively contributed to discussions exploring personal strengths, community relationships, technology and accessibility tools, and key barriers. Highlights of participant input include:

Personal Strengths, Communication, Community Pride

Community Strengths: Strong commitment among community members and organizations to support individuals with disabilities.

- Community organizations like Turnstone, Goodwill, Indiana Legal Services, The League (CIL), and local advocacy coalitions were named as valuable resources.
- "Commitment to serving the community."

Communication: Problem-solving and goal setting were identified as areas of strength within networks of support.

Community Pride: Participants shared pride in their ability to adapt, self-advocate, and foster collaboration.

- "Advocate for people who can't do for themselves."

Community-Based Participation

Discussions included Valued opportunities included inclusive events, nature spaces like parks and trails, the zoo, and community outings with accommodations for sensory needs or diet.





Technology & Accessibility Tools

- "Communication devices such as tablets, phones, and apps are critical supports."
- Smart home tools and AI assistants (e.g., Alexa, Siri, ChatGPT) were frequently mentioned.
- Other technology and sensory tools discussed included headphones, white noise machines, Meta glasses, planners, and grab bars.
- "My chair, my apartment, independent transportation, job."

Challenges and Barriers

Participants identified several key barriers:

- **Transportation:** Ongoing challenges accessing reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation.
- **Housing:** Limited options for safe, affordable, and accessible housing across the community.
- **Employment & Benefits:** Many valued meaningful employment but discussed facing restrictions due to income limits and the benefit cliff.
 - "The process of accessing services and equipment is often long and discouraging."
- **Service Navigation:** Participants shared that it is difficult to understand and navigate available services, particularly VR.
- **Technology Barriers:** "Long repair times, limited vendors, and strict eligibility rules create barriers."
- **Employment Restrictions:** "Related use of devices and complex application processes add further challenges."

Connect & Contribute

To continue to foster community input and collaboration into Council work; the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities frequently hosts virtual and in-person learning and discussion opportunities across the state. Participants are encouraged to read and share this Council **IN** Community session summary and, if interested, connect with Council Members and staff for more information about other Council funded programs and activities.

