








## **WHAT PEOPLE WITH IDD SAID MATTERS MOST TO THEM**




This document shares what people with disabilities, and their families told the Council in 2025. GCPD collected this information to learn what is important in people's everyday lives. It helps the Council see what is working well and what needs to change for the 2027-2032 State Plan.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### **What helps:**

- Tablets 
- Phones
- AAC devices  
- Smart-home tools  

#### **What's hard for people:**

- Slow repairs 
- Not enough access 
- Staff not trained to help 

#### ***What we learned about Technology:***

***Technology = independence. People need it to have access to technology when they need it.***

### **HEALTHY LIVING**

Healthy living is a life domain in Charting the LifeCourse. It means managing and accessing health care and staying well. Healthy living includes medical health, mental health, behavioral health, developmental stages, wellness, nutrition.

People talked most about:

- Pets & service animals 
- Exercise & movement 
- Nature & recreation 
- Feeling calm & well 
- Eating healthy 

#### ***What we learned about Healthy:***

***Routines help people feel strong, stable, and independent.***



## **RELATIONSHIPS**

Social and spirituality. Building friendships and relationships, leisure activities, personal networks, faith community.

Advocacy and engagement. Building valued roles, making choices, setting goals, assuming responsibility, driving how one's own life is lived.

- Friends and chosen family are essential ❤️
- Supportive staff and peers make people feel connected 🤝
- Clubs, groups, and faith communities 🏛️

***What we learned about Relationships:***

***People want connection. Feeling included matters.***

## **COMMUNITY LIVING**

Community living is a life domain in Charting the LifeCourse. Community living is where and how someone lives. This includes housing and living options, community access, transportation, home adaptations and modifications.

People want to:

- Get out of the house 🏠
- Go places & join events 🎉
- Visit parks 🌻
- Move around town 🚗

What gets in the way:

- Transportation problems 🚗 ⚠️
- Housing challenges 🏠 🔑 ⚠️

***What we learned about Community Living:***




***People want a good life as part of their communities.***






## **JOBS & MONEY**

Employment and money are part of the Charting the LifeCourse life domain called daily life and employment.

People want:

- Good jobs 
- Fair pay 
- To keep their benefits 

People also want support with:




- Budgeting & financial literacy 
- Time management 
- Interacting with cashiers 

***What we learned about Jobs and Money:***





***People want to work without losing the benefits that are essential to healthy living.***

## **PERSONAL STRENGTHS**

People described themselves as:

- Creative 
- Kind 
- Hardworking 

People have:

- Long-term jobs 
- Volunteer roles  
- Artistic talents 

***What we learned about Personal Strengths:***

***People with IDD already want to grow, set goals, and live independently.***



## **SUPPORTS & SERVICES**

People want to:

- Go places
- Join events

What's difficult:

- Transportation
- Housing

People want:

- Jobs that pay fairly without losing benefits

***What we learned about Supports & Services:***

***Supports should be readily available, easy to access, and reliable.***

## **SAFETY**

Safety and security are a Charting the LifeCourse life domain. It means staying safe and secure in emergencies, well-being, guardianship options, legal rights and issues.

People need:

- Safe homes 🏠
- Safe communities 🏡
- Clear information about rights 📄

***What we learned about Safety:***

***Safety and rights need more attention and more conversation.***



## **ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT**

Advocacy and engagement are a life domain in Charting the LifeCourse. This means building valued roles, making choices, setting goals, assuming responsibility, driving how one's own life is lived.

People showed leadership by:

- Asking for what they need 🙌
- Helping others 😊
- Speaking up 💬
- Using creativity and relationships to make change 🌱

***What we learned about Everyday Leadership:  
People with IDD need to be listened to. They are advocating for themselves and taking advantage of leadership opportunities.***

## **WHAT ALL THIS INFORMATION MEANS**

People with IDD want full lives, real choices, support that works, and a chance to be heard.

This information will help shape the State Plan so that:

- People with IDD have more independence and leadership opportunities.
- Supports are available that make sense for people's lives.
- Communities are easier to access for people with IDD.
- People with IDD have more power in decision making.