

# Disability Rights Nebraska

## Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

Annually, we reflect on our 5-year Strategic Plan and establish our goals and objectives for the upcoming year. The Strategic Plan sharpens our focus onto three Priority areas: Freedom from Harm, Most Inclusive Settings, and Engaging People with Disabilities in Advocacy.

Disability Rights Nebraska seeks to be an inclusive organization. In all of our work, our goal is to involve and feature people with disabilities in meaningful roles: as participants, as trainers, as personal experts on the life experience of a person with a disability. We challenge other organizations and policy-setting groups to engage people with disabilities in such meaningful roles.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey before July 26, 2022, to tell us what you think of our focus areas for Fiscal Year 2023.

For an alternative format or assistance completing the form, contact our office at 800-422-6691.

Thank you for taking the time to help us!

### PROPOSED PRIORITIES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FY 2023

#### PRIORITY 1 - Freedom from Harm

**Goal 1A: Monitor places where people with disabilities who are most in danger of harm live, work, or learn.**

**1A.1:** Maintain a regular presence at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) on a monthly basis, including monthly reviews of facility incident reports.

**1A.2:** Maintain a regular presence at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) twice a month, including regular attendance at the facility's People's Council and the Transition Unit meetings.

**1A.3:** Monitor 40 settings where people with disabilities are segregated, isolated, and congregated.

**1A.4:** Implement the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of the Representative Payee Program.

**Goal 1A:**    Not Important            Important            Very Important  
Comments:

**Goal 1B: Investigate and respond to allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation using a range of remedies to ensure that the most vulnerable people with disabilities are free from harm.**

**1B.1:** Investigate and respond to 25 allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

**1B.2:** Engage in two (2) public policy-related activities to secure changes in state statute or regulation to provide greater protection for people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and retaliation.

**Goal 1B:**    Not Important            Important            Very Important  
Comments:

## **PRIORITY 2 - Most Inclusive Settings**

**Goal 2A: Investigate and respond to allegations of rights violations that impede people with disabilities from living, working, and learning in the most inclusive settings.**

**2A.1:** Investigate and respond to 15 allegations of rights violations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**2A.2:** Investigate and respond to 5 requests to acquire assistive technology devices and services and educate 30 students and parents about rights to access assistive technology in IEPs.

**2A.3:** Investigate and respond to 15 cases involving beneficiaries of Social Security who face a barrier to obtaining work.

**Goal 2A:**    Not Important            Important            Very Important  
Comments:

**Goal 2B: Advocate for people with disabilities to learn, live and work in the most inclusive settings.**

**2B.1:** Engage in a range of advocacy efforts to address the Olmstead Plan including the need for integrated housing and services for people with serious mental illness.

**2B.2:** Conduct educational activities to work towards eliminating sub-minimum wage jobs and decreasing utilization of sheltered workshops by increasing competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities, including utilization of the Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities program.

**2B.3:** Conduct research on barriers to being served in the most integrated setting experienced by children and youth with mental illnesses who are in residential treatment facilities, including juvenile justice facilities.

**2B.4:** Continue to advocate for Home and Community-Based Services and monitor the implementation of the final settings rule under the Medicaid program.

**2B.5:** Conduct targeted outreach to raise awareness about the needs of the most vulnerable people with disabilities.

**2B.6:** Organize, educate, and provide on-going support to ordinary citizens across Nebraska to become effective lay advocates for inclusive education opportunities for students with disabilities.

**Goal 2B:**    Not Important            Important            Very Important  
Comments:

**PRIORITY 3 - Engaging People with Disabilities in Advocacy**

**Goal 3A: Provide people with disabilities opportunities to learn how to be effective advocates and support them in advocating on things that impact their lives.**

**3A.1:** Provide four (4) opportunities for people with disabilities to become engaged in disability-related public policy research, education, and advocacy.

**3A.2:** Contract with a consultant to provide training (both individual and facilitator) and support groups for individuals with mental illnesses who are interested in developing a mental health advance directive under Nebraska law.

**3A.3:** Contract with a consultant provide training (both individual and facilitator) and support groups for individuals with mental illnesses to become effective self-advocates.

**3A.4:** Implement the FY 23 Supported Decision-Making Initiative plan to provide an alternative to guardianship and conservatorship in Nebraska.

**3A.5:** Conduct outreach and inform at least (800) people with disabilities about their voting rights.

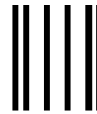
**Goal 3A:**    Not Important            Important            Very Important  
 Comments:

<b>Tell us about yourself:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Person with a disability <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain)
<b>Ethnicities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Selected
<b>Races</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black / African American <input type="checkbox"/> India Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Race Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Two or more races <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain)
<b>Do you live in an Urban or Rural area?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban (Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Grand Island)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural (All other Nebraska cities) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown

Any additional comments:

**Thank you!**

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