



Understanding Key No Wrong Door Partners: I/DD Network



I/DD Network Overview

The intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) network includes a broad range of organizations that support individuals and families throughout a person's lifespan. This document is intended to increase awareness of key legislative milestones and players in the I/DD network to strengthen system alignment to help open more doors in accessing services.

Key Legislative Milestones¹

The Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Assistance Act (DD Act) 1975

As a major step forward in supporting the lives of people with I/DD, the initial goal of this legislation was to address problems in state-run institutions for people with disabilities. Following legislative action in the 1960s to address problems in state-run institutions for people with disabilities, the DD Act has been amended and re-authorized over time to further support and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to shape policies that impact them.

The Rehabilitation Act 1973

This act prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment, and in the employment practices of federal contractors. It also provides funding for Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1975

The IDEA made free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services are being provided. It governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 1990

The most sweeping federal legislation on the civil rights of people with disabilities, the ADA prohibits discrimination against and ensures equal opportunity for people with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.

State I/DD Networks

State Agencies on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

States have designated agencies that administer programs and services to support the I/DD population. To find your state agency, click [here](#).

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

These programs are part of universities or medical centers and serve as a bridge between the university and the community that brings resources together to both inform and achieve meaningful change. To find the program in your state, click [here](#).

State Developmental Disability Councils (DD Councils)

DD Councils focus on creating programs and advocating for policies that empower individuals with developmental disabilities to participate as equal members of society. DD Councils work to create an environment of self-sufficiency, self-determination, inclusion, and acceptance. DD Councils also play a critical role in quality assurance and as innovators in the development of community programs and solutions. DD Councils are made up of voluntary members appointed by the state's governor. To find your state council, click [here](#).

PASRR

[Preadmission Screening and](#)

[Resident Review](#) (PASRR) is a screening tool that helps prevent inappropriate long-term nursing home placement for adults with I/DD. PASRR is an important tool for states to use in rebalancing services away from institutions and towards supporting people in their homes, as well as to comply with the Supreme Court decision, *Olmstead vs L.C.* (1999).

Read [this document](#) to learn how Medicaid administrative claiming can support PASRR work in NWD Systems.

¹ <https://www.nacdd.org/major-federal-legislation/>

State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As)

P&As and Client Assistance Programs (CAPs) work to improve the lives of people with disabilities by guarding against abuse, advocating for basic rights, and ensuring access and accountability in several areas including health care, education, employment, housing, transportation, voting, and within the juvenile and criminal justice systems. To find the program in your state, click [here](#).

Local I/DD Networks

Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

CILs are operated and led by individuals with disabilities to provide independent living and other services for people with disabilities, regardless of disability or age. CILs are at the core of ACL's independent living programs, which work to support community living and independence for people with disabilities across the nation based on the belief that all people can live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society. These programs provide tools, resources, and supports for integrating people with disabilities fully into their communities to promote equal opportunities, self-determination, and respect.²

Local School Districts

Local school districts provide many services to students with disabilities and their supports. State NWD Systems may facilitate youth transitions from the education system into the adult service system which could include home and community-based services, vocational supports, and post-secondary education opportunities. Local school districts provide a critical link to reach individuals and families so that NWD Systems can offer person-centered counseling and support.

The Arc

The Arc is a national advocacy group with local chapters whose vision is that every individual and family living with I/DD in the United States has access to the information, advocacy, and skills they need to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.³

Did you know? The Olmstead lawsuit began when two women with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson, brought suit against the state of Georgia. The case proceeded through the courts for the next four years before finally culminating in the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead vs L.C.* (1999), which ruled that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additional Resources

[ACL's Administration on Disabilities](#)

This ACL website describes and provides links to programs and services administered by the Administration on Disabilities to support individuals with disabilities.

[The Role of Aging and Disability Resource Centers in Serving Adults Aging with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families: Findings from Seven States](#)

This article highlights findings from a research study on how Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in seven states serve older adults with intellectual disabilities and their families.

[Bridging the Aging and Developmental Disabilities Service Networks: Challenges and Best Practices](#)

This report highlights policy and service delivery issues related to adults aging with developmental disabilities and their families. This report also discusses the differences and similarities between the aging and developmental disability networks and includes specific recommendations on how to bridge the two networks together.

² <https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/centers-independent-living>

³ <https://thearc.org/about-us/>