



STATE ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

How can you become more involved in advocacy at the state level? Go through the following questions to develop a plan!

State Legislature

What is the website for your state legislature?

- Find it here: <https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>

When is your state legislature in session?

Who are your state legislators?

- Find them here: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

If you run a group, who are the state legislators for the geographic areas of the people you serve?

Are any of these state legislators in leadership positions (Committee chairs and vice chairs, majority and minority leaders, etc.)?

Group Coalition-Building and Collaboration

Who are the other disability groups active in state level advocacy?

- State Developmental Disabilities Council
 - Find it here: <https://nacdd.org/councils/>
- State Protection & Advocacy Organization
 - Find it here: <https://www.ndrn.org/about/ndrn-member-agencies/>
- State-level chapter of the Arc
 - Find it here: <https://thearc.org/find-a-chapter/>
- Any Down syndrome, autism, or other disability groups with active involvement in advocacy issues

Do they focus on or specialize in particular issues?

Are you interested in advocating for any of these issues?

Individual Coalition-Building and Networking

Who are the other NDAC members in your state?

- Contact the NDSC Policy Team at policy@ndscenter.org

Are there any statewide Down syndrome or IDD coalitions? Cross-disability coalitions or workgroups?

Do you know any self-advocates who are active in state level advocacy?

Opportunities for Learning and Outreach

Does your state have a Partners in Policymaking class? (check with your DD Council)

Is there a Developmental Disabilities Day at your state legislature?

Is there a UCEDD (University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service) in your state? If so, does your UCEDD have a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) program? (<https://www.aucd.org/urc/lend2>)

Does your state legislature recognize World Down Syndrome Day (3/21) by proclamation and/or event?

Are there any upcoming briefings, Town Hall meetings, or public work group meetings on particular issues of interest?