



FY 2023

ANNUAL REPORT





A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERS

ADDPC has a unique role in Arizona's disability community and unique opportunities that accompany that role. Our work in 2023 - and the work of outside organizations funded by the Council - reflects the collective commitment of people across this state to make Arizona the most supportive, most accommodating, and most opportunity-rich environment it can possibly be for individuals with I/DD. We're proud of what was accomplished in the past year, yet mindful as well of the many important things still to be done. We believe 2023's achievements are a launching pad for even more significant things to come. And we welcome you, wherever you may be in Arizona, to join us in this ongoing journey.



Jon Meyers, Executive Director

Our team really worked hard in 2023. I'm incredibly proud of the accomplishments under our meaningful careers goal since it's a personal passion of mine. We've funded organizations around the state opening up more workplace opportunities for Arizona residents with developmental disabilities. We've created new resources for families and adults, too. Transition to adulthood continues to be a big part of what we focus on, and I couldn't be happier with the progress we've made this year. Thank you to our grantees, advocates, and staff for all the great work they do.

On the cover: Arizona's supported decision-making law was celebrated at a ceremony in September. L to R: Rep. Jennifer Longdon, ADDPC member Sophie Stern, ADDPC Executive Director Jon Meyers, Governor Katie Hobbs, ADDPC Chair Melissa Van Hook, Sen. John Kavanagh, ADDPC Research and Communication Specialist Jason Snead



Melissa Van Hook, ADDPC Chair



ABOUT US

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council promotes greater community inclusion across the lifespan for all Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Council achieves this through **grantmaking, advocacy, research and innovative projects** in five key goal areas:

- Self-Determination
- Meaningful Careers
- Inclusion with Engagement
- System Access and Navigation
- Safety

Our Impact around Arizona:

Collecting Data - We identify local developmental disability challenges and solutions.

Funding Grants - We use our grants efforts to help Arizonans speak up for themselves or push for community inclusion.

Advancing Inclusion - We educate through events, resources, and social media.

Promoting Self-Advocacy - We establish, strengthen, and expand self-advocacy activities among people with developmental disabilities so they will become empowered and self-determined.



OUR COUNCIL

The all-volunteer Council is made up of individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals in the disability field, and state agency representatives appointed by the Governor of Arizona. Thank you to those who served between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023.

Melissa Van Hook

Chair & Family Member - Central AZ

J.J. Rico

Vice-Chair & Representative, Protection & Advocacy System - Southern AZ

Kin Chung-Counts

Family Member - Central AZ

Monica Cooper

Self-Advocate - Central AZ

Meghan Cox

Family Member - Central AZ

Bianca Demara

Family Member - Southern AZ

Vanessa Felix

Self-Advocate - Western AZ

Erik Jensen

Self-Advocate - Central AZ

Benjamin Kauffman

Representative, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System - Central AZ

Katharine Levandowsky

Family Member - Central AZ

Kristen Mackey

Representative, Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration - Central AZ

Janna Murrell

Family Member - Central AZ

Gabriela S. Orozco

Provider - Central AZ

Wendy Parent-Johnson

Representative, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities - Southern AZ

James Rivera

Representative, Arizona Department of Education - Central AZ

Kelly Roberts

Representative, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities - Northern AZ

Vijette Saari

Family Member - Western AZ

Mary Slaughter

Family Member - Central AZ

Sophie Stern

Self-Advocate - Central AZ

Mateo Treetop

Self-Advocate - Central AZ

Janet Vilorio

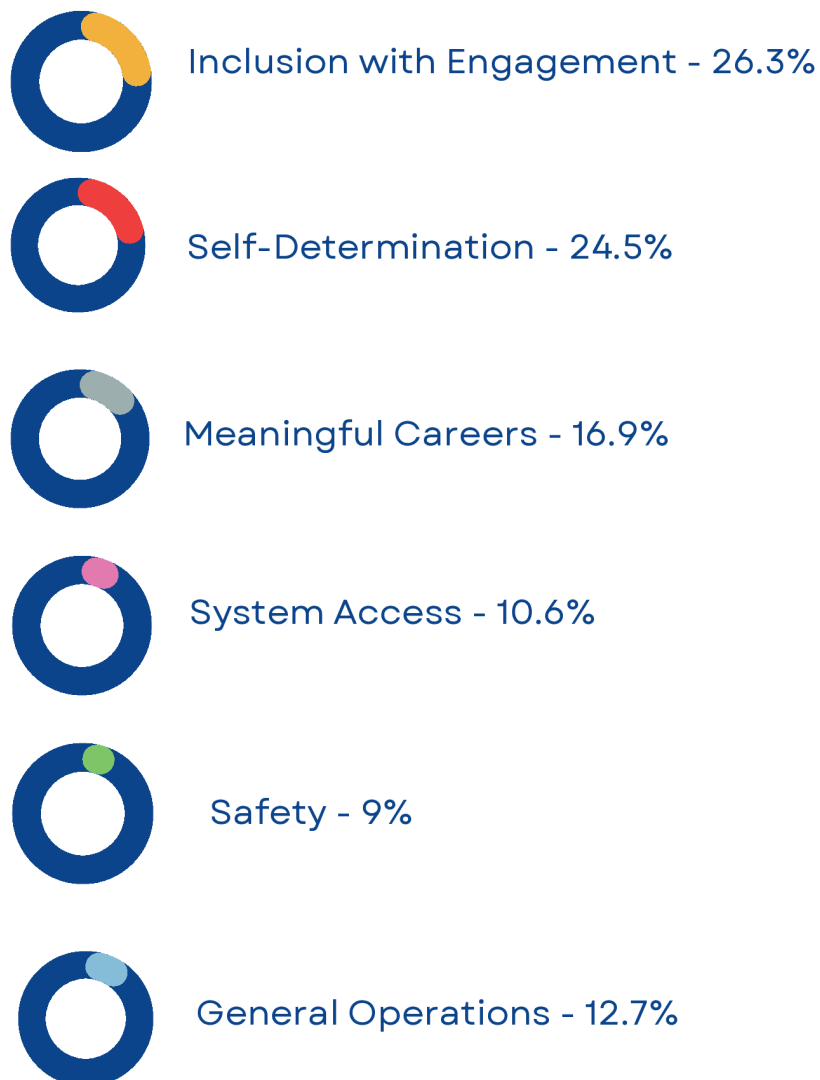
Representative, Arizona Department of Health Services - Central AZ

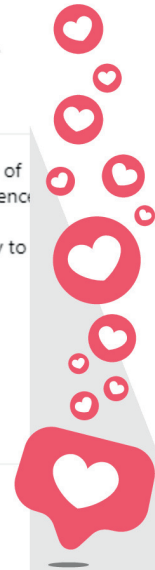


A YEAR IN REVIEW

\$1,645,585

In Federal Fiscal Year 2023, the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council spent \$1,645,585 to support programs and operations.





GOAL: SAFETY

Project Spotlight

Inaugural Arizona Sexual Violence and Disability Network Conference

The Arc, a national disability advocacy and services organization, partnered with the Council to host the first-ever Arizona Sexual Violence and Disability Network Conference in September at Ability360 in Phoenix.

The event featured panel discussions and breakout groups discussing how to make the abuse reporting system more effective for survivors of sexual abuse who have developmental disabilities.



SAFETY

Grants

- Healthy Sexuality Training, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence (ACESDV)
- The Grandparent Connection, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Arizona Sexual Violence and Disability Network, The Arc of Arizona

In-house Projects

- Grand Canyon Collaborative - a multi-agency collaboration to raise awareness of all types of abuse/neglect, risk factors, prevention of abuse/neglect, and effective response methods
- Behavioral Health and Crisis Response - updating transportation policy for first responders serving people with I/DD during a mental health crisis
- Advocacy with Governor's office - worked toward better services and treatment for people with I/DD at Arizona State Hospital
- Augmentative Communication Devices - successfully advocated for state agency enforcement of ADA protections related to removal of communication supports



GOAL: SELF-DETERMINATION

Project Spotlight

Special Education Advocacy Project,
Disability Rights Arizona

Students with I/DD are receiving extra advocacy support as part of a project with Disability Rights Arizona, formerly known as Arizona Center for Disability Law. The goal is to ensure access to an equitable, fully inclusive education for all students with disabilities. One standout example in this Council-funded initiative involves an elementary school student who is deaf and also has co-occurring disabilities, including autism, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disability.

The student had been denied access to effective communication in his public school district for almost two years, and the SEAP project has been assisting him and his family to seek placement at the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind, where he can have access to effective means of communication.





SELF-DETERMINATION

Grants

- Special Education Advocacy Project, DRAZ
- Statewide Self-Advocacy Network-Building, Southwest Institute for Families and Children/The Arc of Arizona
- Transition AHEAD Roundtable, University of Arizona Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities
- I/DD and Dementia Conference, UA Sonoran Center
- Athlete Leadership Professional Development Conference, Special Olympics AZ
- Virtual Training on Healthy Relationships and Sexuality, The Opportunity Tree

In-house projects

- Medicaid Redetermination Town Hall - Organized with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, AHCCCS leaders and statewide disability advocates
- Supported Decision-Making - Coordinated legislative and public education to promote supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship in Arizona
- Community Engagement - Offered expanded opportunities for civic participation by self-advocates, family members and caregivers



GOAL: INCLUSION WITH ENGAGEMENT



The Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities received Council funding for its Continuing Medical Education program to support effective communication between individuals with I/DD and clinical staff, and promote self-advocates' decision-making, within the healthcare system. Twenty-eight short videos were created in English and Spanish and captioned. The videos were also made available in American Sign Language with English/Spanish captions.

Project Spotlight

28 Healthcare Advocacy Videos



*Take a peek at Paavi's story
by scanning the code*



INCLUSION WITH ENGAGEMENT

Grants

- Continuing Medical Education (CME)/Healthcare Videos and Curriculum, UA Sonoran Center
- Disability Data Hub, Impact Analytica/Arizona State University

In-house projects

- Transportation Policy - Collaborated with Northern Arizona Transit Authority and the Maricopa Association of Governments to improve rural transportation options
- Webinar Series - Hosted two presentations on the topics of bullying of youth with I/DD, and acceptance of disability as a strength rather than a weakness
- Pacific ADA Conference - Addressed Accessibility Challenges for People with I/DD
- School Emergency Preparedness - Successfully advocated for statewide adoption of effective emergency operations planning for students with disabilities



GOAL: MEANINGFUL CAREERS

Project Spotlight

Center for the Future of Arizona & Arizona Town Hall

The Council funded the Center for the Future of Arizona at Arizona State University and Arizona Town Hall for a community engagement project. It focused on more successful transitions of students with disabilities into postsecondary education and careers. The groups held a total of 8 focus groups and town hall meetings, ultimately sharing their findings and recommendations in a report.

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ADDPC also created a "Pathways to the Future" resource series for transition-aged youth and families.

The guides were created to be easily read by elementary students and also were translated into Spanish versions.



MEANINGFUL CAREERS

Grants

- Communities at the Center Focus Groups and Town Hall, Center for the Future of Arizona
- Supporting Inclusive Practices in Colleges, Northern Arizona University Institute for Human Development
- Analysis of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Transition-Age Youth with I/DD, University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion

In-house projects

- Webinar Series - Pathways to the Future Presentations for Career Development with printed companion guides
- Employment First Concurrent Resolution, Arizona Legislature
- Federal Tax Incentives Policy Brief - Partnered with Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month



GOAL: SYSTEM ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Jason's Advocacy Corner featured special guests in a series of videos hosted by ADDPC staff member Jason Snead, tackling topics important to the I/DD community. This included themes such as parenting with a disability and obtaining a diagnosis as an adult in Arizona. Videos were created in English and Spanish.

Project Spotlight

Jason's Advocacy
Corner YouTube Series





SYSTEM ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Grants

- Native Center for Disabilities, UA Sonoran Center
- Elevating Refugee Perspectives about Access to Disability Services Research Study, UA Sonoran Center

In-house projects

- Rural Health Access - Promoted greater health equity for Arizonans with disabilities living in rural areas
- YouTube Video Series - Highlighted self-advocates and community leaders making a difference for people with I/DD
- Accessible Communications - Served as a founding partner of SABE-SARTAC Plain Language Project with UA Sonoran Center



SPECIAL FEATURE: SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

September 8, 2023 - a pivotal day for our Council and all Arizonans with I/DD. After years of advocacy, Governor Katie Hobbs held a ceremony to celebrate the signing of Senate Bill 1291 into law, bringing formal supported decision-making officially to the Grand Canyon State. Council members and state legislators gathered to celebrate the hard-won bipartisan achievement.

The law will allow Arizonans with disabilities 18 years old or older to retain their decision-making capacity by choosing supporters to help them make choices as an alternative to guardianship.

Council member Sophie Stern smiles next to Gov. Katie Hobbs at the bipartisan SB1291 ceremony at the Arizona State Capitol.





OUR STAFF



JON MEYERS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



JASON SNEAD
RESEARCH AND
COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST



LANI ST. CYR
FISCAL
MANAGER



STEVE FREEMAN
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR



MARCELLA CRANE
CONTRACTS
MANAGER



MICHAEL LEYVA
GRANTS
COORDINATOR

*The individuals above served on the Council staff
between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023*

CONTACT US



EMAIL

addpc@azdes.gov



WEBSITE

<https://addpc.az.gov/>



PHONE

602-542-8970



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