

NEW PROGRAMS AND GRANTEES

State Plan 2027-2031

LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT, INFORMATION & TOOLS (LEIT) PROGRAM

The LEIT Program helps people with developmental disabilities (DD), their families, and community partners participate in the legislative process and influence public policy.

This is a new grant and does not include the Community Advocacy Coalition like the previous Advocacy Partnership Project did.

The goal: Make it easier for the DD community to understand policy issues, speak up about what matters to them, and help shape decisions that affect their lives.

LEIT IN SHORT

The what:

The LEIT Program is about making the legislative process more accessible, understandable, and inclusive for people with developmental disabilities and their families to lead the effort.

The how:

By providing timely information, practical advocacy tools, opportunities to engage with lawmakers, and stronger community partnerships, the program helps ensure that the voices and experiences of people with DD are part of the public policy conversation.

Accessibility, equity, collaboration, and feedback guide every part of this work.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COALITION?

The Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) brings organizations and community members together to strengthen their voice in public policy.

- The program supports the coalition to:
 - Grow and engage its membership.
 - Develop new advocates and community leaders.
 - Identify shared priorities and policy goals.
 - Work together to advocate for change.

The goal: Build a strong, connected community that can speak up together on issues that affect people with IDD and their families.

WHAT IS SAIL?

The Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) program helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) build leadership skills, speak up about issues that matter to them, and participate in public policy.

- SAIL supports people with I/DD to:
- Build confidence and leadership skills.
- Speak up for their rights and choices.
- Influence laws, policies, and decisions.
- Help shape the future of their communities.

The goal: Ensure people with I/DD have meaningful opportunities to lead their own advocacy and influence decisions/policies that affect their lives.

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Although these three programs have different roles, they complement one another.

- **LEIT** helps people understand what's happening in the Legislature and gives them tools to take action.
- **CAC** brings community organizations and advocates together to identify shared priorities and coordinate their efforts.
- **SAIL** focuses on supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become leaders and guide their own advocacy.

Together, these programs help build a stronger advocacy system—from providing information, to coordinating community action, to ensuring self-advocates themselves are leading the way.