



**DISABILITY RIGHTS IDAHO
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
FISCAL YEAR 2025
(October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)**

HOW DO WE CHOOSE CASES?

1. You must live in Idaho.
2. Your problem must be related to your disability.
3. Our funding sources have rules for service. You and your problem must meet these rules. Additional information about what we do can be found on our website www.disabilityrightsidaho.org
4. Your problem must be one that we can solve. The law must be able to give you the help you are asking for.
5. Every year, our Board, Council, the community and our staff set what we will focus on or prioritize for the next year. Your case must fit one of the priorities for the year.
6. If we can give you information to solve the problem on your own or your problem can be solved by another professional, we will give you that information instead of taking your case.
7. So that we can help the most people possible, we try to take cases that can help many people before we take cases for one person.
8. Disability Rights Idaho (DRI) gets many requests for help and sometimes we do not have enough money or people to help everyone that calls. So sometimes we may not be able to help you, even though your problem fits one of our priorities.
9. We talk to everyone involved in a problem first to try and solve the problem before we take legal action or file cases in court.

DRI cannot help with every issue, including, but not limited to criminal matters, divorces, custody of minors, bankruptcy, worker compensation issues, personal injury cases, taxation issues or estate planning. We always welcome suggestions for new areas of focus.

Abuse and Neglect

Goal: People with disabilities living in or receiving services from a covered service provider or facility will be free from abuse, neglect, and rights violations, in line with their legal rights.

- **Area of Focus 1: Monitoring.**
 - DRI will conduct monitoring visits for abuse, neglect, and rights violations at adult and youth facilities and home and community-based settings.
 - **Area of Focus 2: Investigations.**
 - DRI will investigate allegations of abuse or neglect as allowed under our federal authority.
 - **Area of Focus 3: Individual Cases.**
 - DRI will address individual issues or rights violations identified during monitoring visits or as reported, for example, failures to provide needed assistive technology.
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Access and Rights

Goal 1: Address access barriers faced by people with disabilities using public buildings, public accommodations, transportation, and K-12/Post-Secondary Education.

- **Area of Focus 1: Accessibility.**
 - DRI will accept disability discrimination cases under Title II or Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- **Area of Focus 2: Community Integration.**
 - DRI will collaborate with the US Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in their ongoing investigation into violations of Title II and the Olmstead decision for children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) or with a developmental disability and SED.

Goal 2: Assist youth with disabilities in accessing medically necessary services, including assistive technology.

- **Area of Focus 1: Medicaid Denial.**
 - DRI will provide legal representation to youth who have been denied Medicaid services under the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Testing (EPSDT) Medicaid benefit.
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Self-Determination and Independence

Goal: Provide systemic, legally based advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities can exercise self-determination and independence in the community of their choice.

- **Area of Focus 1: Individual Cases (Guardianship Modification or Termination).**
 - DRI will provide legal representation to adults with disabilities to modify or terminate abusive or unnecessary guardianships.
- **Area of Focus 2: Individual Cases (Alternatives to Guardianship).**
 - DRI will provide assistance with alternatives to guardianship including creating supported decision-making agreements (SDMAs).
- **Area of Focus 3: Education and Outreach.**
 - DRI will provide education on SDMAs as an alternative to guardianship/conservatorship to adults with disabilities and those who work with adults with disabilities.

Education

Goal: Students with disabilities will have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

- **Area of Focus 1: Education and Outreach.**
 - DRI will provide education on issues, including but not limited to, special education eligibility, access to assistive technology, and dispute resolution.
- **Area of Focus 2: Training and outreach on transition services.**
 - DRI will conduct training and outreach on transition services available to youth with disabilities.
- **Area of Focus 3: Individual cases.**
 - DRI will represent students with disabilities on issues related to special education, accommodations, and related services in K-12 schools.

Employment

Goal: People with disabilities will have equal employment opportunities and be free from employment disability discrimination.

- **Area of Focus 1: Individual Cases (Client Assistance Program (CAP)).**
 - DRI will provide advocacy assistance to applicants or clients of Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) Programs: Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), DAC (Disability Action Center), LIFE (Living Independently for Everyone), and LINC (Living Independence Network Corporation)
- **Area of Focus 2: Individual Cases (Social Security Beneficiaries).**
 - DRI will assist people who receive SSI/SSDI to secure, advance in, keep, or regain employment.
- **Area of Focus 3: Outreach.**
 - DRI will conduct targeted outreach visits to segregated employment environments.
- **Area of Focus 4: Education.**
 - DRI will create informational materials on the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Order of Selection process.

Public Policy

Goal: Participate in systemic advocacy that promotes and protects the rights of people with disabilities.

- **Area of Focus 1: Collaboration.**
 - DRI will collaborate with the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), the University of Idaho Center on Disability, and Human Development (CDHD) to support the Disability Advocacy Network of Idaho (DANI).
- **Area of Focus 2: Group Advocacy.**
 - DRI will participate with other stakeholders and disability groups on task forces, work groups, and councils that present opportunities to advocate with and on behalf of people with disabilities.
- **Area of Focus 3: Systemic Activities.**
 - DRI will address systemic issues throughout the year that affect people with disabilities, including assistive technology needs.

Short-Term Assistance, Education, and Outreach

Goal 1: Provide detailed information, strategies, and resources about disability rights and laws to assist people with disabilities in addressing issues related to their disability.

- **Area of Focus 1: Short-Term Assistance.**

- DRI staff will provide information to people about disability rights, laws, and services, including assistive technology available in the community.

Goal 2: People with disabilities will have increased awareness about rights, laws, and services for people with disabilities, including the services offered by DRI.

- **Area of Focus 1: Outreach and Education.**
 - DRI will participate in outreach and educational activities to increase awareness about rights, laws, and services for people with disabilities, including unserved and underserved populations.
- **Area of Focus 2: Long-Term Care Ombudsman Collaboration.**
 - DRI will collaborate with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to provide a training on effective communication requirements under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act to nursing home and/or residential assisted living administrators.

Voting

Goal: Address barriers which prevent eligible Idaho voters with disabilities from voting.

- **Area of Focus 1: Education for Full Electoral Participation.**
 - DRI will provide information and education to support full participation in the electoral process for eligible Idaho voters with disabilities, including registering to vote, voting by mail, using assistive technology, and accessing polling places.
- **Area of Focus 2: Voter Accessibility Toolkit.**
 - DRI will promote an informational media campaign and voter accessibility toolkit regarding voter registration and valid identification requirements under Idaho law.
- **Area of Focus 3: Accessibility in Voting.**
 - DRI will collaborate with and educate election officials and poll workers to support eligible Idaho voters with disabilities to fully participate in the electoral process.
- **Area of Focus 4: Voting Policies and Practices.**
 - DRI will monitor state policies and practices to ensure they are consistent with the Help America Vote Act.
- **Area of Focus 5: Individual Cases.**
 - DRI will provide representation to eligible Idaho voters with disabilities whose voting rights have been violated.