

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.
(See the [AAIDD Interest Networks Leadership Manual](#) for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network:	Communication Access & Supports
Lead Contact Person(s): Sara Cornett, CCC-SLP, PhD & Marie Moore Channell, PhD (Co-Chairs)	
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: 2027 (Chair/Co-Chair)	
2025-2026 Report For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. • Membership Engagement: We administered a member survey to gauge current members' areas of interest, goals and preferences for engaging with the IN, and preferred method of communication for future IN information. Responses indicated a high preference for opportunities to network and engage with other members, followed by opportunities to provide input on the IN's representation of Communication Sciences and participate in learning activities. There was also a strong preference for using email to communicate with the IN. We reviewed survey responses with IN members at the annual business meeting at AAIDD and discussed ways to increase opportunities for networking and engagement in the coming year. • Professional Networking: At the AAIDD Annual Convention, we introduced non-affiliated attendees to our group and network, expanding our reach and potential membership base. • Learning Activities: We have scheduled an AAIDD webinar to be hosted in September 2026 that will showcase the valuable work of IN members. • IN Name Change: We worked with IN members during the annual business meeting to develop a new name for the IN that best reflects its broadening scope so that we can continue to grow our membership and be inclusive of practitioners and those with lived experience while moving away from a focus on diagnosis to a focus on supports. Members in attendance voted unanimously in support of the new name, "<i>Communication Access and Supports</i>"; an open call for input via email resulted in multiple members expressing further support for the name change with no members raising concerns. We plan to move forward with updating the IN name this year. • Scholarship Support: We sponsored two Student and Early Career Professional and Self-Advocate Scholarship/Merit Awards, supporting the next generation of professionals in our field.	
2026-2027 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies For the coming year (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. • Professional Networking: Plan informal gatherings at key conferences (e.g., ASHA) to build professional relationships and expand our community. • Knowledge Sharing: Host an educational session led by experts MaryAnn Ronski, CCC-SLP, PhD and Rose Seveck, PhD to showcase the valuable work of IN members (September 2026). • Membership Engagement: Implement year-round through: ○ Networking sessions, information sharing, and facilitated discussions on current research, policy, and practices to strengthen connections between members. ○ Survey members to identify those interested in committing to providing information and serving as a resource/contact for other members on key topics.	

Due July 31, 2026