

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:	Health & Wellness Interest Network
Lead Contact Person(s):	Cheryl Albright, Co-Chair; Iva Obrusnikova, Co-Chair, Melissa Savage, Secretary
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:	Fiscal year (FY) 2027 elections held May 2026; FY 2028 elections for all three positions set for May 2027.
2025-2026 Report For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.	
Goal 1. Engage HWIN members in developing Network priorities	
Objective 1.1. Engage HWIN members in identifying Network priorities aligned with the AAIDD 2024 National Health Goals. Activities Completed: ● Conducted a member survey in Fall 2025 to identify priority issues aligned with the AAIDD 2024 National Health Goals and related initiatives (e.g., HEADs-UP, Project NICHE-Med). ● Analyzed survey results and shared findings with HWIN members and AAIDD leadership. ● Established three HWIN strategic priorities ("imperatives") based on survey findings. Objective 1.2. Prioritize follow-up work to address identified strategic priorities. Activities Completed: ● Strategic priorities were identified through the member survey. Activities Pending: ● Conduct follow-up planning to prioritize work supporting the identified HWIN strategic priorities. Goal Status: Partially Completed	
Goal 2. Strengthen HWIN leadership and succession planning	
Objective 2.1. Create Network leadership pathways and succession planning protocols. Activities Completed: ● Solicited interest in HWIN leadership through the member survey. ● Conducted elections in May 2026. ● Installed new officers for FY2027. Goal Status: Completed	
Goal 3. Refresh HWIN marketing and advocacy resources	
Objective 3.1. Refresh HWIN marketing materials and calls to action. Activities Pending:	

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

- Develop calls to action to engage AAIDD members, other Interest Networks, and external organizations around shared research and practice priorities.

Objective 3.2. Develop health advocacy tools and resources.

Activities Completed:

- Developed health advocacy resources consistent with HWIN priorities, AAIDD health positions, and the National Health Goals.
- Conducted one webinar in April 2026 and scheduled additional webinars for July and August 2026.

Goal Status: Partially Completed

Expenditures: HWIN awarded two merit awards and one membership award for a total of \$390.

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.

During FY2026–2027, HWIN will focus its educational, collaborative, and advocacy activities on strategic priorities identified through the 2025 member survey and aligned with the AAIDD National Health Goals.

Goal 1. Advance education of health professionals regarding people with IDD

Objectives:

- Deliver 2–3 educational webinars on priority health topics identified through the member survey and aligned with the AAIDD National Health Goals.
- Disseminate evidence-based educational resources to HWIN members.
- Promote awareness of best practices in health care for people with IDD.

Activities:

- Deliver an annual webinar series.
- Present at the AAIDD Annual Conference and other relevant venues.
- Disseminate evidence-based educational resources.

Measures of Success:

- Deliver 2–3 educational webinars.
- Disseminate at least two educational resources.
- Average attendance of at least 15 participants per HWIN webinar.

Goal 2. Promote collaboration and networking with organizations

Objectives:

- Establish or strengthen collaborations with at least two organizations that share HWIN priorities.
- Provide at least two interdisciplinary networking or educational opportunities for HWIN members.
- Evaluate opportunities to enhance resource sharing among HWIN members.

Activities:

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

- Conduct at least one joint webinar or educational activity with a partner organization.
- Collaborate with Psychology IN, AADMD, CCD, NCPEID, and other organizations on initiatives of mutual interest.
- Assess the feasibility of developing an online research and resource repository.
- Promote participation by healthcare professionals, trainees, self-advocates, and individuals with lived experience in collaborative activities.

Measures of Success:

- Complete at least one joint educational or networking activity.
- Initiate or strengthen at least two collaborative partnerships.
- Complete a feasibility assessment for an online research and resource repository.

Goal 3. Support health advocacy and policy

Objectives:

- Increase awareness of AAIDD health policy priorities among HWIN members.
- Expand access to health advocacy resources.
- Promote dialogue on emerging health policy issues affecting people with IDD.

Activities:

- Deliver at least one webinar or educational activity addressing health advocacy or policy.
- Facilitate discussions on emerging health policy issues affecting people with IDD.
- Disseminate and, where feasible, develop health advocacy resources aligned with AAIDD priorities.

Measures of Success:

- Complete at least one advocacy-related educational activity.
- Facilitate at least one policy discussion.
- Disseminate at least one health advocacy resource.
- Complete at least one collaborative advocacy activity.

Goal 4. Strengthen member engagement and leadership

Objectives:

- Increase member participation in HWIN activities.
- Expand volunteer and leadership opportunities for HWIN members.
- Support student engagement and professional development.

Activities:

- Award student travel or professional development scholarship(s), as funding permits.
- Recruit volunteers for HWIN initiatives.
- Encourage participation in HWIN committees and initiatives.
- Mentor emerging leaders and support leadership succession planning.
- Disseminate information about HWIN initiatives and opportunities for member engagement.

Measures of Success:

- Award at least one student travel or professional development scholarship (as funding permits).
- Recruit at least three volunteers for HWIN initiatives.
- Number of members participating in HWIN committees, webinars, or other HWIN activities.
- Identify at least one member as a potential candidate for a future HWIN leadership position.

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

- Disseminate at least two communications to HWIN members regarding HWIN initiatives or opportunities for engagement.

Proposed Expenditures:

HWIN anticipates using available Interest Network funds to support student travel or professional development scholarships, webinar programming, collaborative initiatives, and other educational or networking activities as approved by AAIDD. Expenditures will be contingent upon available funding and approval in accordance with AAIDD policies.