

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: Research Interest Network

Lead Contact Person(s): James Lemanowicz, Jennifer Eaton-Taylor, Ariel Schwartz

Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: June 2027

2025-2026 Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

We collectively evaluated each objective and activity to identify priorities for the RIN this year. This included surveying the full RIN. We addressed the activities prioritized.

Objective 1: Collaborate with other interest networks

Planned activity 1: Evaluate process of travel award management in collaboration with SECP and AAIDD office.

- This was not a prioritized activity this year

Planned activity 2: Collaborate with SECP to identify supports that would benefit individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in student/early career roles.

- We did not complete this activity this year.

Funds budgeted: \$0

Funds spent: \$0

Objective 2: Support students

Planned activity 1: Provide financial support for travel awards to AAIDD, with a focus on students and early career professionals interested in research.

- We provided 1 scholarship and 1 AAIDD membership
- 15 RIN members participants in scholarship application review.

Planned activity 2: Co-host SECP pre-conference Research Colloquium, and collaborate with SECP leadership to create a program that best meets the needs of diverse students and early career professionals.

- We collaborated with SECP throughout the year to co-host the pre-conference Research Colloquium.
- 4 SECP members presented their research, 10 RIN members provided feedback on presentation abstracts, and 53 individuals registered to attend this pre-conference session

Funds budgeted: \$1000 (\$600/award)

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Funds spent: \$750 (1 scholarship, 1 standard AAIDD membership)

Objective 3: Advance the field

Planned activity 1: Host a webinar on inclusive research and/or plain language dissemination.

- We proposed a webinar on this topic, but AAIDD determined it was duplicative of a webinar earlier in the year.

Planned activity 2: Explore the feasibility of providing small scholarships for student groups to support inclusive research (for example, a small \$500 scholarship to provide compensation to researchers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities working on a student project). This will be explored for implementation in future years.

- We developed a set of application guidelines, put out a call for applications, received 4 applicants, and awarded the first biannual minigrant.
- 4 RIN members participated in application review.
- We are currently advertising for the second biannual minigrant, and have received 1 application as of July 2 (due July 31).
- We identified revenue streams to support ongoing administration of this grant–membership dues, donations, and AAIDD publication royalties (at least 3 committed authors).

Planned activity 3: The RIN will explore opportunities to co-sponsor webinars/seminars with other related organizations (e.g., AUCD, IDDRRC) to enhance collaboration and dissemination in the field.

- This was not a prioritized activity this year

Funds budgeted: \$500

Funds spent: \$500

Objective 4: Promote the mission, goals, and principles of AAIDD

Planned activity 1: Establish supports for a member of the RIN Leadership with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and elect a member with intellectual and/or developmental disability to have a RIN Leadership position. This position will receive a stipend to compensate them for their work.

- The RIN discovered that AAIDD would not compensate volunteers in general and that the Interest Network Manual prohibits payments for IN leaders.
- One individual with an intellectual disability who volunteered with the RIN with support from a Co-Chair and Member at Large received a stipend for volunteering their time.
- We have yet to establish a formal support system

Planned activity 2: Discuss an approach for raising funds for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to become AAIDD members and RIN members. This may include having the IN fee waived and/or having an option for IN members to pay an additional fee that goes towards membership of an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

- This was not a prioritized activity this year

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Funds budgeted: \$750 (stipend + additional supports)

Funds spent: ~\$500 (\$500 payment + postage)

Objective 5: Improve communication

Planned activity 1: Using the membership list, invite RIN members to participate in RIN events and contribute to annual planned activities (e.g., reviewing for student awards, serving as mentors at the SECP Research Colloquium).

- We utilized the membership list to successfully recruit RIN members for scholarship, minigrant, and SECP Research Colloquium abstract review and to attend the SECP Research Colloquium.
- We held two all-member virtual meetings.
- 15 members attended the annual meeting at the AAIDD Annual Meeting.

Planned activity 2: Using the media outlets of AAIDD (newsletter, Facebook), advertise RIN events and relevant scholarly events and activities of RIN members.

- We advertised the RIN minigrant using AAIDD media outlets

Funds budgeted: \$0

Funds spent: \$0

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.

Objective 1: Collaborate with other interest networks

Planned activity 1: Collaborate with SECP to identify supports that would benefit individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in student/early career roles. Supports identified may drive the development of 2027-2028 action plan objectives.

Funds budgeted: \$0

Objective 2: Support students

Planned activity 1: Provide financial support for travel awards and memberships to AAIDD, with a focus on students and early career professionals interested in research.

Planned activity 2: Co-host SECP pre-conference Research Colloquium, and collaborate with SECP leadership to create a program that best meets the needs of diverse students and early career professionals.

Funds budgeted: Up to \$1200 (\$600/scholarship, \$150/standard AAIDD membership)

Objective 3: Advance the field

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planned activity 1: Host a webinar that addresses research development, such as peer review, publication, networking, and/or mentorship.

Planned activity 2: Support RIN membership to self-identify areas of interest through a survey and then connect members with similar interests for potential collaborations.

Objective 4: Administer the inclusive research minigrant

Planned activity 1: Advertise, evaluate applications, and administer a \$500 minigrant biannually to students and/or researchers with intellectual and developmental disabilities to conduct inclusive research.

Funds budgeted: \$1,000

Objective 5: Promote the mission, goals, and principles of AAIDD

Planned activity 1: Support a member of the RIN with intellectual/developmental disability to engage in RIN activities. This member will have the opportunity to receive a financial award, up to \$500 + reasonable postage. This position will receive a stipend to compensate them for their work.

Planned activity 2: Discuss an approach for raising funds for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to become AAIDD members and RIN members. This may include having the IN fee waived and/or having an option for IN members to pay an additional fee that goes towards membership of an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Funds budgeted: \$750 (stipend + additional supports)