

Supporting Families Community of Practice Evaluation

South Dakota State Data Brief

Evaluation Overview

In 2012, the Administration for Community Living (ACL), through the Administration on Disabilities (AoD)¹, awarded the five-year National Supporting Families Community of Practice (CoP) grant to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), which partnered with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute on Human Development (UMKC-IHD). In the first year of the grant, 15 states applied and five were selected to participate, including Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington, with Missouri serving as the mentor state. Given growing interest in the work of the CoP, NASDDDS and UMKC-IHD decided to expand and sustain the CoP outside of the initial grant. A second cohort, known as the expansion states, joined in 2016, including Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. With interest continuing to grow around the nation, the CoP welcomed five new states—Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, and New Jersey—in 2019 and created opportunities for participating states to adjust their level of participation.

Three project outcomes guide the work of the National Supporting Families CoP:

- State and national consensus on a national framework and agenda for improving supports for families with children with I/DD
- Enhanced state policies, practices, and sustainable systems that result in improved supports to families
- Enhanced capacity of states to replicate and sustain exemplary practices to support families and systems

To examine progress toward federal project outcomes and identify which activities are leading to success, ACL funded the National Supporting Families CoP evaluation. The evaluation team gathered data that align with the three project outcomes to determine how the CoP is producing outcomes of interest to ACL, which reflect the five AoD priority areas (Exhibit 1). Findings will provide ACL with outcomes data and recommendations to improve supports to families of individuals with I/DD. They will also provide information on how the CoP and CtLC framework improve support and systems delivery of services to families and individuals with I/DD.

Exhibit 1. AoD Priority Areas

The Five AoD Priority Areas
■ Ensure the continued protection of rights of individuals with I/DD and prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation
■ Improve and maintain effective and responsive management of responsibilities under Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the DD Act)
■ Promote Employment First as a key strategy for individuals with I/DD to be contributing and productive members of society participating in the competitive integrated workforce
■ Empower individuals with I/DD and their families to access home and community based (HCBS) and supports that are self-directed and ensure opportunity for community participation
■ Support advocacy efforts of individuals with I/DD in order to ensure their participation in system and service delivery design

¹ The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) initiated the evaluation in 2017. The Administration on Disabilities (AoD) now oversees the evaluation.

The evaluation includes all 16 states that participated in the National Supporting Families CoP for at least two years between 2012 and 2018. For evaluation purposes, evaluators stratified states into three groups based on their stage of development, as described in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2. Evaluation Participants

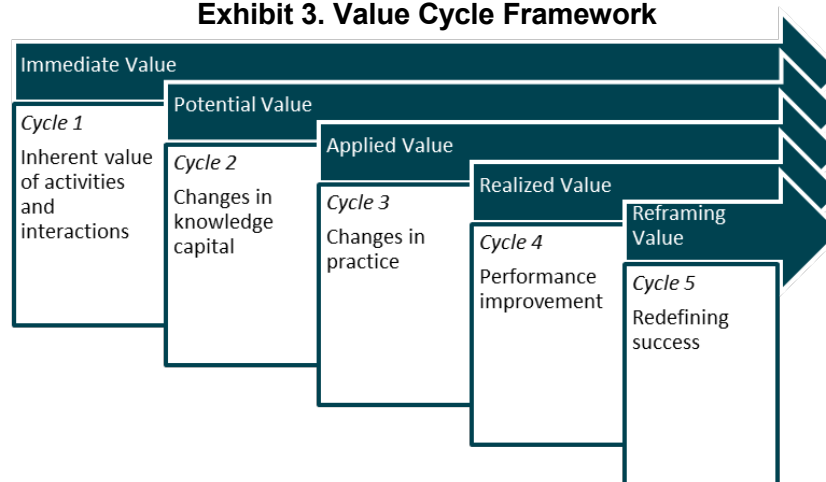
Group One	Group Two	Group Three
<p>The six original CoP states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connecticut ▪ District of Columbia ▪ Missouri (mentor state) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oklahoma ▪ Tennessee ▪ Washington 	<p>States with previous exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maryland ▪ Ohio ▪ Pennsylvania ▪ South Dakota 	<p>States with little or no exposure to the CoP and CtLC framework before joining the expansion state cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alabama ▪ Delaware ▪ Hawaii ▪ Indiana ▪ Kansas ▪ Oregon

Evaluators collected data from states using four tools:

- *Reporting tools* (one for each state grouping) gathered descriptive data about CoP structure, activities, and impact.
- *Telephone interviews* (informed by the reporting tools) collected contextual data about CoP activities and accomplishments specific to each state.
- *Site visits* (to select states) with CoP leadership and other stakeholders provided data on the relationship between CoP activities, outputs, and outcomes.
- *Materials review* (on an ad-hoc basis) collected needed data on areas of interest.

Evaluators analyzed the collected data using a conceptual framework developed by Wenger, Trayner, and de Laat² (Exhibit 3), which assesses value creation in communities. Adapted for evaluation purposes, the framework considers five different cycles of value creation to capture the richness of value created by communities of practice. The following page describes the value generated from CoP activities and the CtLC framework within the South Dakota CoP.

Exhibit 3. Value Cycle Framework

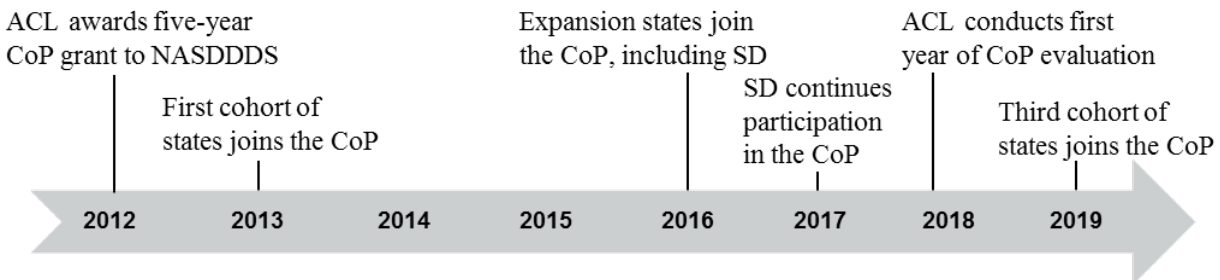


² Wenger, E., Trayner, B., and de Laat, M. (2011). Promoting and Assessing Value Creation in Communities and Networks: A Conceptual Framework. Rapport 18, Ruud de Moor Centrum, Open University of the Netherlands.

A Look into South Dakota's Community of Practice

South Dakota (SD) is one of the expansion states that joined the National Supporting Families CoP in 2016. The SD CoP is a collaboration between the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council. The timeline below (Exhibit 4) provides detailed information about SD's participation in the CoP over time.

Exhibit 4. Timeline of South Dakota's CoP Participation



Using data from the most recent Residential Information Systems Project Report developed by the University of Minnesota, the number of people with I/DD known to or served by DDD was 4,604. Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) recipients include people with I/DD who receive Medicaid or State-funded supports and services. In 2016, 45% of 4,604 LTSS recipients in SD lived at home with a family member. The report also shows annual Medicaid Waiver expenditures for recipients with I/DD, which amounted to \$31,991 per recipient in 2016.³

Understanding the current state of I/DD services and supports in SD is important in better understanding how CoP activities and the CtLC framework impact families and individuals with I/DD. The evaluation team gathered valuable data from SD through administration of the reporting tool, telephone interview, and materials review. After careful analysis of the data using the value cycle framework, the evaluation team noted the following key achievements by SD's CoP during evaluation year one:

- SD is working with partners, such as Therap and UMKC, to implement a standardized individualized support plan (ISP) informed by the CoP and CtLC framework. The DDD has unified Therap accounts among Case Managers (CMs) and direct providers for CHOICES waiver services.
- One area of innovation identified by SD was combining person-centered training (PCT) and CtLC philosophies in training opportunities, such as webinars. Ambassadors from both groups also came together to plan the 2019 SD Gathering.
- The number of SD LifeCourse Ambassadors increased from two in 2017 to 11 in 2019.

SD's continued participation in the National Supporting Families CoP shows their commitment to the CtLC framework and advancing supports for families of individuals with I/DD. The following tables includes a more comprehensive list of SD's achievements from evaluation year one.

³ Larson, S.A., Eschenbacher, H.J., Anderson, L.L., Taylor, B., Pettingell, S., Hewitt, A., Sowers, M., & Bourne, M.L. (in press, 2018). In-home and residential long-term supports and services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities: Status and trends through 2016. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration.

Exhibit 5. South Dakota's Achievements in Evaluation Year One, 2018-2019

Value Cycle	CoP Activities and Achievements
Cycle 1: Immediate Value <i>Value of Activities and Interactions Themselves</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The DD Council acts as a liaison between SD Advocates for Change and the DDD. ▪ Many of the LifeCourse Ambassadors in SD are family members of individuals with I/DD. ▪ The CoP uses stakeholder feedback to inform policy and systems change.
Cycle 2: Potential Value <i>Changes in Knowledge Capital</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The state CoP engages in informal CtLC training and education sessions with CMs, Service Coordinators, families, and self-advocates. ▪ SD uses the CtLC framework in systems planning and infrastructure to provide a different lens towards progress. ▪ SD created and disseminated the "Charting a Person-Centered Path to Employment" resource, which outlines services and provides anticipatory guidance. ▪ The CtLC framework is working its way through several sectors within the state including Education, Department of Corrections, LTSS Systems, etc.
Cycle 3: Applied Value <i>Changes in Practice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DDD created a procedure for families and waiver participants to request additional funding throughout the year due to shifts in self-directed budgets. ▪ DDD revised the CHOICES waiver definitions to reflect time-limited prevocational services and other day/employment-related services. ▪ In response to the ALL principle outlined in CtLC, SD increased the number and skill level of Service Coordinators to meet the demand from individuals and families.
Cycle 4: Realized Value <i>Performance Improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised waivers reduced wait times and increased retention rates of individuals with I/DD and their families. Individuals' needs were better met through continued participation in the waiver. ▪ The CtLC framework impacted professional development through encouraging more creative thinking, and in turn, influencing the culture around disability work.
Cycle 5: Reframed Value <i>Redefining Success</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result of the CoP and CtLC framework, DDD changed some of its goals and strategies, such as the assessment of additional funding requests to meet the needs of individuals with intensive support needs. DDD now looks to the CoP as an advisory board to better understand people's needs.