Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

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Brett Cunningham, Okla. City
Susan Rutledge, Broken Arrow

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David Blose, Yukon
Jeromy Buchanan, Okla. City
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Matthew Conner, Pryor
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Gina Richardson, Okla. City
Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City
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Lori Wieder, Stillwater
Cynthia Wilkett, Tulsa
Valerie Williams, Okla. City
Bryce Wooten, Edmond

Council Staff
Administrative Assistant
Vacant

Planning & Grants Director
Jennifer Robinson

Advocacy Training Director
Dr. Bradley Mays

Self-Advocacy Training Director
Morgan Davis

Executive Director
Jenifer Randle

Join our meeting on Zoom

Meeting ID: 823 6073 3596 Passcode: 8675309

Quarterly Board Meeting

Friday, October 30, 2026, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Center for NonProfits., 701 N. Lindsay Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Board Member(s) attending via Teleconference

David Blose, 724 Ranchoak, Yukon, OK 73099

Laura Haney, 10858 S. 95th East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133

Cynthia Wilkett, 2202 S Madison Ave, Tulsa, OK 74114

Bryce Wooten, 16905 Bedford Circle, Edmond, OK 73012

Possible action item for voting *

I.__ Call to Order & Roll Call: Mr. Kodey Toney, Council Chair & Staff

II.__ Welcome Recognition of New Members and Guests: Mr. Kodey Toney, Chair

III.__ Review Meeting Minutes*: Mr. Brett Cunningham, Secretary.

IV.__ Public Comments – Guests are limited to 3 minutes.

V.__ Council Committee Reports*

a.__ State Plan Updates*: Mr. Bryce Wooten, Ms. Jennifer Robinson

- ☐ Council Project Progress Updates

b.__ Finance Updates*: Ms. Lori Wieder

- ☐ Finance Updates

c.__ Advocacy, Training, & Outreach (ATO) Updates*: Ms. Janie Fugitt, Dr. Bradley Mays, Ms. Morgan Davis

- ☐ Council Project Progress Updates

d.__ Executive Updates*: Mr. Kodey Toney

- ☐ Approvals and decisions since last quarterly meeting

VI.__ Outside Council Reports:

a.__ Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Ms. Susan Rutledge, Council Representative to Committee

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma is to advance communities where everyone has the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play where they choose. The Council builds partnerships to change systems to improve services, resources, and supports for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their families.

b.__ Center for Learning & Leadership: Designee: Ms. Wanda Felty, Assistant Director

c.__ Disability Rights Oklahoma: Designee: Ms. RoseAnn Duplan, Policy & Communications Specialist

d.__ Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): Ms. Beth Scrutchins, Director or Designee

e.__ Community Living, Aging, and Protective Services (CAP): Designee: Ms. Nadine Walters, Director or Designee

f.__ Special Education Services (SDS/SES): Ms. Sherri Coats, Program Director or Designee

g.__ Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Ms. Janie Fugitt, Programs Field Representative or Designee

h.__ Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Ms. Gina Richardson, Early Intervention Manager or Designee

VII.__ Director's Report: Ms. Jenifer Randle

VIII.__ Old Business, Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions * - Members, Staff

- Rethinking Paying Subminimal Wage to Persons with Disabilities Task Force updates – Ms. RoseAnn Duplan
- Review and updating of Council Bylaws*: Ms. Susan Rutledge, Parliamentarian

I.__ New Business, Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions * - Members, Staff

- Federal appropriations ($)
- Council Calendar for 2007 *

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

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II.__ Public Comments – Guests are limited to 3 minutes.

III.__ Announcements / Upcoming Events

- Next Council Committee Meetings:
  -  Friday, Nov. 6 – 10:00 a.m. – State Plan Committee - OKDHS Sequoyah Bldg.
  -  Friday, Nov. 6 – 12: 15 p.m. – A.T.O. Committee – OKDHS Sequoyah Bldg
  -  Friday, Nov. 13 - 10:00 a.m. – State Plan Committee – Center for NonProfits
  -  Friday, Nov. 13 – 12:15 p.m. – Executive Committee – Center for NonProfits
  -  Friday, Dec. 11 – 10:00 a.m. – State Plan Committee - OKDHS Sequoyah Bldg.
  -  Friday, Dec. 11 – 11:45 a.m. – A.T.O. Committee - OKDHS Sequoyah Bldg.
  -  Friday, Dec. 11 – 1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee - OKDHS Sequoyah Bldg.

  - Sign up for our weekly emails!

I.__  Adjournment

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
Quarterly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, July 24, 2026

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Oklahoma Center For NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, July 24, at 12:00 p.m., the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma met at the Oklahoma Center for NonProfits, 701 N. Lindsay Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73104 in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO for calendar year 2026 was given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and the agenda posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311 et seq.

There was a technology issue with the meeting recording and meeting was not recorded. Minutes were captured with notes taken by Ms. Randle and voting results from Mr. Cunningham's voting tally. These notes are recorded on the Council electronic server.

I. 🔨 CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Toney called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. 🙋 ROLL CALL:

Present: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Lori Chesnut (1:03 p.m.), Matthew Conner, Brett Cunningham, Melinda Bunch for Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Laura Haney, Susan Rutledge, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty for Valerie Williams, Bryce Wooten

Guests: Rhonda Souder

Online: David Blose (12:22 to 1:17 p.m.), Heather Hancock (online check-in from the NDSS Conference), Alicia Lincoln for Gina Richardson (12:00 to 1:56 p.m.)

Absent: Jacob Pyle, Beth Scrutchins, Melissa Sublett, Lori Wieder

Staff: Brad Mays, Morgan Davis, Jennifer Robinson, Jenifer Randle

By roll call, it was determined there were sufficient members for a quorum and business was conducted. Mr. David Blose and Ms. Alicia Lincoln's meeting location

are listed on the agenda and there is quorum in person, therefore, both Mr. Blose and Ms. Lincoln were voting members.

🗣️ WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Mr. Toney welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

III. 🗣️ REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Cunningham, Secretary

A. 🗣️ DISCUSSION: The Council reviewed the April 24, 2026 meeting minutes.

🎬 ACTION: Mr. Conner moved to accept the minutes from the April 24, 2026 meeting. Mr. Wooten seconded the motion.

👍 AYES: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Matthew Conner, Brett Cunningham, Melinda Bunch, Shelly Greenhaw, David Blose, Laura Haney, Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

👎 NAYS:

❌ ABSTAIN: Alicia Lincoln, Kodey Toney

👍 MOTION:

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

🗣️ DISCUSSION: There were no comments made.

V. 📝🗣️ COUNCIL BYLAWS DISCUSSION

The Council discussed possible changes to the Council bylaws. There were concerns about maximum terms of appointment in Article V, Section 3, specifically about 1-year terms for members. Typically, the Governor has appointed members 1-year terms when they are appointed to fill the role of a resigning member. Members are curious if this 1-year appointment must be counted towards a member's 8-years total or if it can be 'ignored' towards the total. Ms. Randle will consult with the Governor's office.

Another possible change that members discussed was from Article V, Section 3. Members discussed allowing agency representatives two alternates who could attend Council meetings in their place. Members discussed having the Council Chair approve the alternates.

Discussion was then brought to Article V, Section 18, again about Agency designees. Ms. Randle recommended to remove old language that stated Agency designees may not serve as the chair or vice chair of a Council

committee. Members discussed this and agreed to 'agency designees may serve as vice chair of a Council committee with Council Chair approval.'

Ms. Randle will continue reviewing and bring information to the Council for further discussion.

VI. 📝🗣️ COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.  🗣️ State Plan Committee, State Plan Comments:

🎬ACTION: The State Plan Committee moved for the Council to fund the project request from the Oklahoma State Fair, which will provide funding for Momentum Refresh, 2 calming stations, and Accessibility Expo at the Oklahoma State Fair.

👍 AYES: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Matthew Conner, Brett Cunningham, Melinda Bunch, Shelly Greenhaw, Laura Haney, Alicia Lincoln, Susan Rutledge, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

👎 NAYS:

❌ABSTAIN:

👍 MOTION:

🗣️State Plan Committee, FY27 Work Plan:

🎬ACTION: The State Plan Committee moved for the Council to fund the project request from the Tulsa State Fair, which will provide funding for Momentum Refresh, 2 calming stations, and Accessibility Expo at the Oklahoma State Fair.

👍 AYES: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Matthew Conner, Brett Cunningham, Melinda Bunch, Shelly Greenhaw, Laura Haney, Alicia Lincoln, Susan Rutledge, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

👎 NAYS:

❌ABSTAIN:

👍 MOTION:

🗣️State Plan Committee, Quarter 2 Progress: Ms. Robinson presented quarter 3 updates of Council projects. Ms. Robinson explained what the updates are and where the information comes from.

B.  🗣️ Finance Committee: FY27 Budget Plan:

🎬ACTION: The Finance Committee moved to amend the Council approved budget for fiscal year 2027 to include the Oklahoma State Fair project request and the Tulsa State Fair project request.

👍AYES: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Matthew Conner, Brett Cunningham, Melinda Bunch, Shelly Greenhaw, Laura Haney, Alicia Lincoln, Susan Rutledge, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

👎NAYS:

❌ABSTAIN:

👍MOTION:

C.  🗣️ Advocacy, Training & Outreach Committee:

D.  🗣️ Executive Committee:

VII. 📝 🗣️ Reports from Outside Committees / Organization:

A. 🗣️ Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Ms. Rutledge, Council representative, reported the committee had been busy reviewing 13 possible policy changes.

B. 🗣️ DD Network Partner - CLL/UCEDD: Ms. Felty, Assistant Director. Ms. Felty reported that the UCEDD has trained 1520 students, 140 Health professionals trained with the SAME/FAME curriculum, 1461 continuing education credits, 24 ABLE account trainings held, and 33 Community trainings.

C. DD Network Partner - ODLC: No report.

D. Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): No report.

E. Community Living, Aging and Protective Services (CAP): Ms. Nadine Walter

F. Special Education Services (SDE/SES): Ms. Chesnut reported that Special Services has been busy planning the Statewide Special Education Conference and work on Plan Your Way.

G. Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Ms. Bunch, Agency Designee, reported Mr. Sterling Zearley has been appointed OKDRS Interim Director.

H. Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): No report.

VIII. Directors Report: Ms. Randle

IX. Other Old/New Business: None

X. Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions: None, besides what has been discussed. Ms. Randle announced that state interim studies have been announced.

XI. Public Comments: No public comments were made.

XII. 🗣️ Announcements:

Ms. Randle reminded the members of upcoming meetings.

XIII. 🔨 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

State Plan Committee Report

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY26
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026
Quarter Four Summaries
And Final Reports

AutismOklahoma, LookOut Art Programming

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	60	50	75	46	231
# of family members who participated in council activity	20	20	30	30	100
# of others who participated in council activity	200	300	200	300	1,000

The LookOut program completed its eighth quarter with a strong focus on expanding opportunities for artists with developmental disabilities to showcase their talents and engage in the community. The fifth annual Duets Art Show in the Paseo featured artwork from 19 artist teams and five new LookOut artists. More than 300 people attended the First Friday reception and visited the exhibit throughout April. LookOut artists also participated in outreach at the Tulsa Autism Walk, which drew more than 1,000 attendees, and the Oklahoma City Autism Walk, which drew more than 3,000 attendees. LookOut cards were distributed at both events to increase awareness of the program and its artists.

The program provided approximately 75 hours of training during the quarter through art and video programming. In June, four art classes were offered for elementary-aged students and teens at the AutismOklahoma studio, along with art activities for youth participating in Youth & Family Services summer programs. Video/filming classes continued weekly through the Independent Living Program, with participants preparing for a commissioned Delta Dental video and gaining hands-on experience with newly acquired lighting equipment. Participants also received opportunities for community engagement through two movie nights and a commissioned Corvette painting project for an upcoming Ardmore car show. The program recruited one new art instructor and continues to seek additional contract instructors.

LookOut strengthened partnerships this quarter with Youth & Family Services, Life.Church, the Heart of OK Corvette Club, and the Oklahoma Arts Council, which provided a mini-grant supporting the Duets Art Show. The Duets exhibit generated approximately $3,000 in art sales and provided a meaningful opportunity for artists to showcase their talents in the community. AutismOklahoma plans to sustain the art programming through donations, volunteers, fundraising, and art sales through its online market. The continued participation of artists initially recruited through LookOut demonstrates the program's lasting impact and the importance of inclusive opportunities for creative expression, skill development, and community connection.

LookOut Program Annual Report Summary

Year 2

Annual Program Summary and Outcomes

During Year 2, the LookOut program continued to successfully identify, engage, and elevate individuals with autism and developmental disabilities through creative programming, community connections, and skill-building opportunities. Throughout the year, the program expanded access to visual arts and media programming while creating meaningful opportunities for participants to develop artistic skills, gain confidence, showcase their talents publicly, and explore pathways toward employment and greater independence.

The LookOut program experienced significant growth in participant engagement, community visibility, and collaborative partnerships during this reporting period. Through art exhibitions, commissioned projects, filmmaking opportunities, community events, and educational programming, participants were provided with experiences that moved beyond traditional instruction and into real-world creative environments.

Over the course of the year, LookOut provided approximately **515 hours of direct training** to participants through visual arts classes, mentorship opportunities, filmmaking instruction, and hands-on creative experiences.

Visual Arts Programming and Community Exhibitions

A major focus of Year 2 was expanding opportunities for artists to create, exhibit, and share their work with the community. Participants completed commissioned artwork, developed original pieces for exhibitions, participated in pop-up markets, and gained experience presenting their work in professional settings.

Early in the year, LookOut artists completed commissioned artwork for a Corvette car show in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Artist David and partner Amy were invited to attend the event, share their artwork, and speak with attendees about the LookOut program. Due to the success of this partnership, the artists were commissioned again later in the year to create another Corvette painting, demonstrating continued community recognition of their artistic abilities.

Participants also created seasonal artwork and products for two ongoing pop-up displays at 7725 Connect, providing opportunities to practice creative production, display their work publicly, and develop entrepreneurial skills.

A significant accomplishment during Year 2 was the development and presentation of the **DUETS** exhibition at the Paseo Creativity Center in Oklahoma City's arts district. Throughout the year, artists participated in mentorship meetups and collaborated with artistic partners to prepare pieces for the exhibition. The exhibit featured **19 collaborative artist teams**, as well as a special display highlighting **five new LookOut artists**.

Several featured artists—including Anna, CJ, and Spencer—were initially connected to AutismOklahoma through LookOut outreach efforts, demonstrating the program's success in identifying emerging artists and creating pathways for continued involvement. The exhibition was promoted through gallery guides, storyboard signage, and sponsor recognition highlighting the support of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council.

The DUETS opening reception attracted approximately **300 community members**, despite challenging weather conditions, and the artwork remained on display throughout April. The exhibition provided participants with valuable experience exhibiting in a professional gallery environment while increasing public awareness of the talents of artists with developmental disabilities.

Community Outreach and Engagement

Community outreach remained an important component of LookOut throughout the year. The program participated in numerous events designed to increase awareness, provide hands-on creative experiences, and connect new participants with opportunities.

LookOut hosted art activities at community events, including pumpkin painting during a Tulsa community event, seasonal art exhibits, and interactive activities at AutismOklahoma outreach events. A cartooning workshop attracted new teenage artists while continuing to engage returning participants. The program also incorporated creative activities into the Tulsa Mix and Mingle event and other community gatherings.

In September, AutismOklahoma participated in the Disability Expo at the Oklahoma State Fair. Executive Director Kelly Fry and Art Programs Coordinator Dee Blose presented information about AutismOklahoma's programs, while participant Michael provided live cartooning demonstrations for attendees. The event also resulted in expanded outreach materials, including an updated LookOut postcard welcoming artists with any developmental disability to participate in future exhibits and opportunities.

LookOut continued outreach efforts through Autism Walk events in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The Tulsa Autism Walk welcomed more than **1,000 attendees**, while the Oklahoma City Autism Walk attracted more than **3,000 attendees**. LookOut provided interactive art experiences and distributed program information at both events, significantly increasing awareness of available opportunities.

Additional outreach included an AutismOklahoma Open House held at the organization's new facility, which welcomed approximately **80 visitors**, as well as presentations and information sharing with community partners.

Invisible Layers Productions (ILP) Media and Filmmaking Growth

The LookOut program continued to support the growth of Invisible Layers Productions (ILP), providing participants with opportunities to develop filmmaking skills and gain professional production experience.

During the year, the ILP media group completed an original video production, **"5 Lessons Every Filmmaker on the Spectrum Needs to Know,"** highlighting creativity, confidence, and the importance of believing in one's abilities. The project also recognized Developmental Disabilities Council funding support.

A major milestone was the four-day intensive filmmaking workshop held in partnership with Oklahoma City Community College. Supported primarily through a Kirschner Trust grant, the workshop provided participants with access to professional production facilities, classroom instruction, professional actors, filmmakers, and real-world production experiences. LookOut funding supported ILP instructors Sarah Lauffenburger and Dillion Griffins. The workshop received highly positive feedback from both participants and instructors and welcomed several new students.

ILP continued weekly filmmaking classes throughout the year, including preparation for a commissioned Delta Dental video project. Participants gained experience through interviews, on-site filming at a dental office, and collaboration with professionals in the dental field. Students also participated in a film festival, expanding their exposure to professional media environments.

A Kirschner Foundation grant provided new professional lighting equipment, allowing students to develop additional technical skills and strengthen production capabilities. ILP also hosted community movie nights featuring *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* to support outreach and build connections with potential participants.

Partnerships and Community Support

Partnership development was a key contributor to LookOut's success during Year 2. The program strengthened relationships with organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and community partners.

Highlights included:

- Partnership with Oklahoma City Community College for professional filmmaking education.
- Collaboration with Delta Dental on a professional video project highlighting employment and workplace opportunities.
- Support from the Kirschner Foundation through Oklahoma City Community Foundation for filmmaking education, production resources, and equipment.
- Partnership with Vantage Point at 7725, where artists created 85 handmade Christmas cards for employees.
- Collaboration with Francis Tuttle nursing students through a Valentine's Day card-making activity.
- Support from a local Corvette car show, which provided approximately **$4,500** through sponsorship and donation funding for the LookOut Art Commission.
- Partnership with Youth & Family Services, in El Reno, to support their new art therapy program for at-risk youth, many of which have developmental challenges.

These partnerships expanded opportunities for participants while demonstrating the value of inclusive arts programming within the broader community.

Participant Growth and Future Opportunities

Throughout Year 2, LookOut continued to demonstrate success in identifying new artists, building participant confidence, and creating pathways for future opportunities. Participants gained experience in public exhibitions, commissioned artwork, filmmaking, community engagement, and collaborative projects.

The program also began exploring additional opportunities related to entrepreneurship and employment pathways, including plans to interview an artist on the spectrum who successfully developed a business selling original artwork and art products. This project will highlight ways creative interests can become meaningful vocational opportunities.

Annual Impact Summary

Year 2 represented significant growth and achievement for the LookOut program. Through approximately **515 hours of direct training**, the program supported artists and filmmakers in developing skills, building confidence, and engaging with their communities.

Key annual accomplishments included:

- Expanded access to inclusive visual arts and filmmaking opportunities.
- Increased public awareness through exhibitions, outreach events, and community partnerships.
- Professional exhibition opportunities through the DUETS gallery show.
- Continued development of commissioned artwork opportunities.
- Growth of the Invisible Layers Productions filmmaking program.

- Recruitment of new artists who progressed into major program opportunities.
- Strengthened partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, foundations, and community organizations.

The LookOut program continues to demonstrate that individuals with autism and developmental disabilities can thrive when provided with opportunities to create, collaborate, and share their talents with the broader community.

Best Buddies, Expansion

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	1	0	0	0	**1**
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	0	0	**0**
# of others who participated in council activity	25	0	256	0	**281**

Best Buddies Oklahoma made meaningful progress this quarter in expanding inclusive opportunities for students across the state. Staff strengthened relationships with educators and school administrators in Glenpool, Bartlesville, Kellyville, and Kiefer. Bartlesville is moving forward with plans to launch a high school chapter in fall 2026, while conversations in Glenpool have advanced from the teacher level to school administration. Kellyville and Kiefer educators have also expressed interest and are helping facilitate connections with school leadership. These efforts demonstrate growing interest in Best Buddies programming and the importance of consistent relationship-building and follow-up in developing new chapters.

The quarter also included an important staff transition designed to support long-term growth. Program Manager Melanie Pleasant was promoted to Director of Mission Advancement, where she will focus on community partnerships, fundraising, and strategic growth. Recruitment is underway for a new Program Manager who will concentrate on school-based programming, chapter development, and supporting existing school partnerships. Although the staffing transition created a temporary capacity gap, coverage remained consistent and the organization views the transition as an opportunity to strengthen its structure for future expansion. Best Buddies also demonstrated progress toward sustainability beyond Council funding, reaching its $40,000 fundraising goal through the April Friendship Walk and preparing for its fall Champion of the Year gala.

While no chapters were started, overall, continued educator engagement, school outreach, fundraising, and organizational development are positioning Best Buddies Oklahoma for sustained growth and increased opportunities for inclusive programming in communities across the state.

Best Buddies Oklahoma

DDCO School Program and Outreach Report

Programming years FY25 and FY26, with updates at the beginning of FY27

Best Buddies Oklahoma continues to support the development, sustainability, and growth of school-based and college friendship programs across the state. During the 2025–2026 program year, chapters demonstrated strong engagement, creative inclusion efforts, and continued interest from students, while several developing programs experienced challenges related to staffing, transportation, school structure, and changes within special education departments. Best Buddies Oklahoma has continued to work directly with schools to address these barriers and identify models that best fit each campus.

School and Chapter Updates

Schools where we formed strong relationships and had hoped to establish chapters in the **FY26 funding cycle**:

Bartlesville Public Schools

2025–2026

Best Buddies Oklahoma has continued outreach and relationship-building efforts with Bartlesville Public Schools. Melanie Pleasant has met with members of the district's special education staff multiple times regarding the possibility of establishing a Best Buddies chapter.

During the previous school year, the district indicated interest in opening a chapter, but implementation was delayed several times. Fall 2026 was ultimately identified as a potential launch period.

2026–2027

As the new school year approached, Best Buddies Oklahoma was informed that staffing and structural changes within the district's special education program would prevent participation at this time.

Melanie followed up by explaining the student-led nature of Best Buddies and offered to speak with school staff to identify a faculty or staff member who may be willing to serve in an advisory role. She also offered to assist directly with recruitment and implementation to reduce the administrative burden on school personnel. Best Buddies Oklahoma is currently awaiting a response.

Charles Page High School

2025–2026

Charles Page High School received approval to participate in Best Buddies, and after continued outreach, two staff members were identified to assist with the chapter.

Melanie Pleasant met virtually with both prospective advisors to discuss the Best Buddies model and potential implementation strategies. At the school's request, Melanie visited the campus during lunch in late October, hosted an information booth, and facilitated an interest meeting during the school's advisory/flex period.

Approximately 40 students attended the interest meeting and demonstrated significant enthusiasm, asking questions and expressing interest in participating.

The group subsequently held an initial activity where students gathered in a classroom. Momentum was interrupted by Thanksgiving and winter break. One of the chapter advisors attended Melanie's Back to Best Buddies training in January and left with a plan for expanding implementation during the spring semester.

Toward the end of February, the school's special education lead notified Best Buddies Oklahoma that staff needed to prioritize Special Olympics programming and requested that Best Buddies be revisited in the fall.

2026–2027

Melanie followed up again in August and was informed that changes within the special education department would prevent the school from supporting the club at this time. Best Buddies Oklahoma reiterated that the chapter is intended to be student-led, with school advisors providing oversight rather than carrying the full responsibility for programming. Melanie also offered to return to campus to recruit students and assist with program organization. Best Buddies Oklahoma is currently awaiting further communication from the school.

Jenks Public Schools

2025–2026

Jenks Public Schools approved Best Buddies district-wide through a Memorandum of Understanding. Best Buddies Oklahoma initially explored programming at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Following meetings with elementary schools during the previous semester, the district determined that the initial launch would focus on Jenks Middle School and Jenks High School/Trojan U.

2026–2027

The middle school chapter was originally scheduled to begin September 8, 2026. The advisor experienced a family emergency and is expected to return to school during the week of September 14, after which Best Buddies Oklahoma will continue implementation efforts.

At the high school level, Best Buddies Oklahoma is also working to establish a chapter at Oral Roberts University that could partner with Trojan U students. The proposed model would mirror the successful University of Tulsa and Union Redhawk RISE partnership, providing consistent interaction between college students and transition-age students with IDD.

FY26 and FY27 Updates on the 5 schools where we **established chapters supported by your FY25 funding:**

Bixby Middle School

2025–2026

Bixby Middle School experienced several programmatic changes during the 2025–2026 school year. One student completed the formal Best Buddies membership application, although additional students participated through the school's flex-period model.

The chapter transitioned from an after-school model to meeting during a flex period, with general education students paired with students receiving special education services. During implementation, the chapter experienced challenges with achieving the level of peer integration originally intended. School staff and Best Buddies Oklahoma also received concerns from some parents regarding whether participation could unintentionally identify or single out students receiving special education services.

In response, Melanie Pleasant met directly with school staff to discuss the purpose of Best Buddies, meaningful inclusion, friendship, and ways to structure the program so that students with and without disabilities participate together naturally. The school subsequently invited Melanie back in March to speak to the entire middle school about inclusion and friendship.

2026–2027

Planning for the 2026–2027 school year is already underway. Melanie has met with the school's assistant principal, counselor, and special education staff to discuss curriculum, activities, games, and opportunities for broader schoolwide participation in inclusion initiatives. The goal is to move toward an environment where Best Buddies is integrated into the overall school culture rather than perceived as a program that separates or highlights a particular group of students.

Melanie has also reached out multiple times to parents who previously expressed concerns about Best Buddies in an effort to offer a meeting or phone conversation. To date, those invitations have not received a response.

Bixby 9th Grade Center

2025–2026

Bixby 9th Grade Center operated as a Best Buddies Promoters chapter during the 2025–2026 school year. Nine students completed Best Buddies membership applications, and the chapter also partnered closely with the school's Leadership Class, which included 19 additional students.

Because the 9th Grade Center does not have students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) enrolled on site, students focused on schoolwide inclusion, disability awareness, and advocacy. Activities included educational campaigns highlighting different disabilities, anti-bullying initiatives, and participation in the Spread the Word campaign. Students also created an inclusion-focused video that was shared in each homeroom classroom.

To provide students with additional opportunities to experience a traditional Best Buddies chapter, Bixby 9th Grade Center coordinated three visits to Bixby High School throughout the year. During these visits, students participated alongside members of the high school's Best Buddies chapter in inclusive games and social activities.

Bixby High School

2025–2026

Bixby High School had 44 students complete Best Buddies membership applications during the 2025–2026 school year. The chapter met approximately 26 times, primarily during the school's Elevate period.

Activities were designed to provide inclusive opportunities for socialization and friendship and included scavenger hunts, kickball, board games, visits to the football field and locker rooms, courtyard games and snacks, chalk activities, and coloring. Students from the Bixby 9th Grade Center joined the high school chapter three times during the year for shared activities.

The chapter also developed partnerships with other areas of the school. Bixby High School's wrestling team hosted a Best Buddies Night where buddies were introduced prior to the meet. Melanie Pleasant spoke to attendees about the Best Buddies mission, and an informational table provided families and community members with additional information about the organization. The event also provided an opportunity to introduce Best Buddies to the opposing school, whose coaches took program information back to their campus.

A similar inclusion effort took place during football season, and chapter members also participated alongside their buddies in Buddy Baseball.

Bixby High School sent its Chapter President and an adult advisor to BBLC during summer 2026.

2026–2027

For the 2026–2027 school year, the Chapter President has already established a student officer team, adding a leadership structure that was not formally in place during the previous year. The chapter is currently focused on recruitment and building participation for the new school year.

Clyde Boyd Middle School

2025–2026

Development of the Clyde Boyd chapter has been challenging despite continued interest from Best Buddies Oklahoma and initial support from the school.

Best Buddies Oklahoma initially received approval to launch a chapter; however, shortly thereafter, the staff member identified as the advisor shared that she was unable to take on the additional responsibility.

Melanie Pleasant subsequently visited the school and hosted a recruitment table to generate student interest. Several weeks later, she returned for an interest meeting with students and another staff member who had expressed interest in serving as the chapter advisor. Six students attended the meeting, where Melanie discussed the Best Buddies model and ways it could be incorporated into the school.

The program appeared to be a strong fit because Clyde Boyd already uses a peer-based academic support model. The initial plan was to meet after school once per month. Transportation later became a significant barrier because participating students did not have access to a late bus following meetings. The school therefore decided to pause implementation until the spring semester.

When Best Buddies Oklahoma followed up during the spring semester, the prospective advisor indicated that staff were focusing primarily on Special Olympics activities and requested that Best Buddies implementation be revisited in the fall.

2026–2027

Melanie followed up again in August and shortly after the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year. The previous advisor has since transferred to another school site, and Best Buddies Oklahoma is currently awaiting a response from remaining staff regarding next steps.

Union High School

2025–2026

Union High School remained one of Oklahoma's strongest school-based Best Buddies chapters during the 2025–2026 program year. Twenty-four students completed membership applications, and the chapter met approximately 31 times throughout the school year.

Chapter activities included recreational games in the gym, arts and crafts, social activities, and creating posters for the Spread the Word campaign. The chapter participated in Union's schoolwide Clubs Trunk or Treat event, hosted a Thanksgiving luncheon for participants with IDD and their families, and organized a Valentine's Dance that included access to respite rooms to help ensure that students with varying sensory and support needs could participate comfortably.

Union High School also participated in the school's Choose to Include Day in May.

The chapter continued developing student and advisor leadership by sending its Chapter President and two advisors to the Best Buddies Leadership Conference (BBLC) during summer 2026.

2026–2027

The 2026–2027 program year is already beginning with strong momentum. Ten membership applications have been submitted before formal recruitment has begun. Union's Rush Week is taking place in September, and chapter leaders plan to promote Best Buddies during each lunch period.

Existing University Chapter Updates

Oklahoma State University

2025–2026

Oklahoma State University's Best Buddies chapter had a successful 2025–2026 program year, with 41 students completing membership applications.

The chapter hosted eight monthly chapter activities and continued its partnership with Stillwater Group Homes. In addition to organized chapter events, buddy pairs independently spent time together throughout the year.

Activities included attending Oklahoma State University sporting events, shopping, dining out, going to movies, and attending a rodeo. These opportunities allowed friendships to extend beyond structured chapter meetings and into natural community activities.

The chapter experienced strong engagement and sent its Chapter President to BBLC during summer 2026.

2026–2027

OSU has already received 30 membership applications for the 2026–2027 school year and has completed its first chapter activity of the year.

University of Oklahoma

2025–2026

The University of Oklahoma chapter had 24 membership applications during the 2025–2026 school year and hosted five chapter-wide activity meetups.

In late October, the chapter began partnering with Terra Verde Discovery School. Because Terra Verde serves both younger students and adults, OU has intentionally kept Best Buddies activities on the Terra Verde campus to ensure programming remains appropriate for the wide range of ages involved.

2026–2027

The partnership has continued to grow, and Terra Verde has expressed interest in hosting a satellite Best Buddies Friendship Walk on its campus in spring 2027.

OU currently has three membership applications for the 2026–2027 school year and plans to officially kick off programming in October.

University of Tulsa

2025–2026

The University of Tulsa continued to demonstrate strong engagement during the 2025–2026 school year, with 46 students completing membership applications.

TU partnered with Union Public Schools' Redhawk RISE transition program. University students visited Redhawk RISE every Friday during lunch to socialize and build friendships with participants. In addition to weekly lunch visits, the chapter hosted evening activities each month throughout all nine months of the school year.

Students and participants were also paired as buddies and frequently spent time together outside organized chapter activities.

One buddy pair has now been matched for approximately two years. During that time, the participant with IDD has made several significant strides toward greater independence, including securing employment in a healthcare environment and obtaining his driver's license. The relationship illustrates the type of long-term, mutually supportive friendship the Best Buddies model is intended to foster.

TU sent one of its chapter officers to BBLC during summer 2026.

2026–2027

The chapter has already received 27 membership applications for the 2026–2027 school year.

Oklahoma City University

2025–2026

Oklahoma City University had 15 students complete membership applications during the 2025–2026 school year.

2026–2027

Best Buddies Oklahoma has conducted outreach regarding continuation of the chapter for 2026–2027 but has not yet received confirmation that the program will continue.

The chapter encountered ongoing challenges securing a consistent host site for buddy recruitment and programming. Additionally, most chapter members graduated at the end of the school year, leaving only a small number of returning students.

Overall Program Observations

The 2025–2026 program year demonstrated continued demand for Best Buddies programming across Oklahoma, particularly when students are empowered to lead chapters and schools are able to identify consistent faculty support.

Established chapters such as Union High School, Bixby High School, Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Tulsa continue to demonstrate strong student engagement and meaningful opportunities for inclusive friendship.

Several developing school-based chapters have encountered recurring barriers, including advisor capacity, staff turnover, transportation limitations, competing extracurricular programs, and restructuring within special education departments. In response, Best Buddies Oklahoma has increasingly emphasized that Best Buddies chapters are designed to be student-led and has offered additional hands-on support with recruitment, training, activity planning, and implementation.

Best Buddies Oklahoma is also working intentionally to address concerns around inclusion and the perception that students with IDD could be singled out through participation. Current training and planning efforts emphasize whole-school inclusion, voluntary participation, shared activities, natural peer relationships, and opportunities for all students to take an active role in creating a more inclusive school culture.

Moving into the 2026–2027 program year, Best Buddies Oklahoma remains focused on strengthening established chapters, supporting developing schools, and continuing outreach to communities interested in inclusive programming. During the past year, Oklahoma's school and college programming was managed by one full-time staff member, Melanie Pleasant, while her role also expanded to include Director of Mission Advancement responsibilities such as fundraising, sponsorship development, donor stewardship, event planning, and other revenue-generating efforts. This shift in staffing structure required program support, new chapter development, school outreach, and fundraising responsibilities to be managed simultaneously. Despite these capacity limitations, Best Buddies Oklahoma continued to maintain active chapters, pursue new school partnerships, provide direct support to advisors, and respond to implementation challenges as they arose. Additional program-focused staffing will provide greater capacity for consistent chapter engagement, more frequent school follow-up, stronger advisor support, and continued expansion of inclusive opportunities for students with and without IDD across Oklahoma.

Match and Cost Share Contributions

From 2024 through 2026, volunteers contributed 445 hours supporting Best Buddies Oklahoma events, including Friendship Walk, Fall Friendship activities, and Champion of the Year. These events represented 106 volunteer service instances. The University of Tulsa also provided 21 hours of donated facility use, including the TU football field in 2024 and the Reynolds Center in 2025 and 2026. The value of volunteer time and donated facilities will be calculated using DDCO-approved volunteer rates and documented customary facility rental rates.

Oklahoma School Outreach Tracker

School	County	Emails	Phone Call/Message Left	Virtual Meeting	In Person Meeting	No Response
Yukon Public Schools	Canadian	3	1	0	0	1
Terra Verde Discovery School	Cleveland	12	0	4	0	0
Little Axe Public School	Cleveland	7	0	1	0	0
Kiefer Public Schools	Creek	5	2	1	0	1
Kellyville Public Schools	Creek	7	0	0	0	2
Liberty Public Schools	Creek	4	1	0	0	1
Arthur Elementary	Oklahoma	3	1	1	0	2
DRTC	Oklahoma	4	0	1	0	0
Trinity School OKC	Oklahoma	5	0	1	0	0
Deer Creek	Oklahoma	3	1	0	1	1
Adelaide Lee Elementary	Oklahoma	3	1	0	0	1
Buchanan Elementary	Oklahoma	4	1	0	0	1
Capitol Hill High School	Oklahoma	5	1	0	0	1
Edmond Transition Academy	Oklahoma	5	0	0	0	1
Midwest City Schools	Oklahoma	5	1	0	0	1
Oklahoma City Community College	Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0
Wings	Oklahoma	2	1	0	0	0
Newman Middle School	Osage	3	0	1	0	1
Anderson Public School	Osage	4	1	0	0	1
Avant	Osage	4	0	0	0	1
Barnsdall Elementary	Osage	2	1	0	0	1
Hominy Public Schools	Osage	4	1	0	0	1
Indian Camp Elementary	Osage	2	0	0	0	1
Marrs Elementary	Osage	3	0	0	0	1
Osage Hills Public Schools	Osage	3	2	0	0	1
Pawhuska Elementary	Osage	3	1	0	0	1
Pawhuska Jr. High	Osage	2	0	0	0	1
Prue Elementary	Osage	3	0	0	0	1
Catalayah Elementary	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1

Catoosa High	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Catoosa Public Schools	Rogers	2	1	0	0	1
Cherokee Elementary (Catoosa)	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Claremont Elementary	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Claremore High School	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Claremore Public Schools	Rogers	4	1	0	0	1
Inola Public Schools	Rogers	2	1	0	0	1
Roosa Elementary	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Verdigris Elementary	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Verdigris High	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Verdigris Middle	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Verdigris Public Schools	Rogers	4	1	0	0	1
Wells Middle	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Westside Elementary (Claremore)	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Will Rogers Junior High	Rogers	3	0	0	0	1
Jenks Public Schools	Tulsa	19	0	0	4	0
Tulsa Public Schools	Tulsa	24	2	0	3	1
Bixby Central	Tulsa	9	0	0	2	0
Glenpool Public Schools	Tulsa	11	2	0	2	1
Arrowhead Elementary	Tulsa	15	1	0	1	0
Berryhill Public Schools	Tulsa	7	1	0	0	1
Bixby North Elementary	Tulsa	5	3	0	0	1
Broken Arrow High School	Tulsa	4	1	0	0	0
Skiatook Public Schools	Tulsa / Osage	6	1	0	0	1
Owasso Public Schools	Tulsa / Rogers	7	1	1	0	1
Collinsville Public Schools	Tulsa / Rogers	8	0	0	1	2
Central Elementary (Coweta)	Wagoner	2	0	0	0	1
Coweta High School	Wagoner	3	1	0	0	0
Coweta Public Schools	Wagoner	4	1	0	0	1
DPS Junior High (Coweta)	Wagoner	3	0	0	0	1
Heritage Intermediate (Coweta)	Wagoner	3	0	0	0	1
Mission Intermediate (Coweta)	Wagoner	3	0	0	0	1
NW Elementary (Coweta)	Wagoner	2	0	0	0	1

Southside Elementary (Coweta)	Wagoner	2	0	0	0	1
Wagoner Public Schools	Wagoner	3	0	0	0	1
Bartlesville Public Schools	Washington	18	2	1	0	2
Oklahoma Connections Academy	Washington	6	0	1	0	2
Bartlesville High	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Caney Valley Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Caney Valley High	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Caney Valley Middle	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Central Middle	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Copan Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Copan High	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Dewey Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Dewey High	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Dewey Middle	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Hoover Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Jane Phillips Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Madison Middle	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Oklahoma Wesleyan University	Washington	4	2	0	0	1
Ranch Heights Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Richard Kane Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Wayside Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1
Wilson Elementary	Washington	3	0	0	0	1

Oklahoma Person Accounts — Demographic Summary

509 records | Ages calculated as of September 3, 2026

Gender	Total
Male	76
Female	238
Gender undisclosed	192
Nonbinary	1
Self-describe	2
IDD	**Total**
Yes	70
No	244
IDD undisclosed /	195
Age Range	**Total**
Ages 0–11	62
Ages 12–17	96
Ages 18–30	109
Over 30	53
Age undisclosed	189

Race	Total
Race undisclosed	221
White	203
American Indian or Alaska	37
Black or African American	15
American Indian or Alaska	12
Asian; White	7
Black or African American;	5
Asian	3
American Indian or Alaska	2
American Indian or Alaska	1
American Indian or Alaska	1
American Indian or Alaska	1
Middle Eastern or North	1

DDS – Smart Home in Tulsa Area Final Report

Through funding and partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) and Oklahoma Department of Developmental Disabilities Services (OK-DDS), Soaring on Hope Pediatric Clinic (SOH) successfully developed and opened a Smart Home Demonstration Site in Tulsa, Oklahoma. During the project period, SOH worked with multiple enabling technology (ET) providers, including SafeinHome, Gray Matters Alliance, Dose Flip, and NanoPac, as well as OK-DDS vendors who donated additional items for display. Technologies were purchased, staged, inventoried, indexed, and tagged with QR codes so visitors can easily access information about each product and how it may support greater independence in the home. SOH also developed a website featuring information about the site, tour scheduling, and a Matterport 3D virtual tour.

Following months of preparation and installation, the Smart Home Demonstration Site officially opened to the public on February 11, 2026. The grand opening received positive attention and was featured through Oklahoma Human Services media channels. Since opening, the site has welcomed 64 visitors, including OK-DDS case management staff, SOH employees, parents, individuals with disabilities, and other professionals and supporters. Due to the high level of interest, SOH expanded tour availability to Tuesdays and Fridays and offers both in-person and virtual tours. Visitors complete pre- and post-visit surveys, with data collected by OK ABLE Tech and shared with OK-DDS upon request.

The site has helped increase awareness and excitement around enabling technology among individuals with disabilities, families, and professionals, while providing a hands-on opportunity to see how technology can be incorporated into everyday life. Survey results show that 98% of visitors reported plans to integrate technologies they viewed into their own lives or the lives of someone they support, demonstrating the site's potential to influence the use of ET to promote independence. SOH will continue to manage and operate the demonstration site, providing ongoing educational and tour opportunities. Collectively, the four smart home demonstration sites in Oklahoma have welcomed more than 1,000 visitors, expanding statewide access to information and resources that can help Oklahomans with disabilities achieve greater independence, choice, and quality of life.

Oklahoma Autism Center, Early Access Screenings & ADOS2 Qualified Examiner

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	0	0	0	1	**1**
# of families who received screening referrals/screening appts.		19	13	20	**52**
# of families who received direct screenings	13	16	13	11	**53**
# of families who received resources and referrals	95	37	59	44	**235**
# of others who received resources and referrals	9	7	5	7	**28**
# of people trained in Autism/Early Identification	14	80	176	52	**322**
# of people trained in more in-depth training	8		26	8	**42**
# of CASAs trained	10				**10**
# of people trained in Pilot Training	34				**34**

This quarter, the project continued to make strong progress in early identification of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder. Three trainings were conducted in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, reaching a total of 52 participants. Training topics included autism identification, developmental monitoring, and behavioral classroom strategies that promote inclusion of children with developmental differences. The project also provided eight screening practicum experiences for Interprofessional Practice and Education in Screening Initiative (IPSI) participants and conducted 11 developmental and/or autism screenings. Feedback through Qualtrics surveys has been positive, with participants reporting increased knowledge and confidence in recognizing developmental differences and implementing effective classroom strategies.

The project provided significant direct support to families and community members. Staff responded to 21 screening-related calls that resulted in referrals or screening appointments and assisted 44 families with accessing resources, primarily through assessment provider lists and other service information. Seven providers also received assistance related to early identification and assessment. Staff continued weekly screenings and bi-weekly team meetings focused on Early Access activities. The project also distributed Spanish-language CDC “Let’s Play” developmental monitoring guides and continued to connect families and providers with consultation, resources, and assessment opportunities.

Collaboration and outreach remained important components of the project. Partnerships were strengthened with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and Acts 2 United Methodist Church through trainings for early care professionals. The team also presented on developmental monitoring and classroom strategies at the OKAEYC conference and continued its partnership with IPSI, providing hands-on screening experiences for students in multiple health professions. During this period, we participated in the Autism Advocacy Day at the Capitol. We set up a booth and distributed books about developmental monitoring and milestones, along with

information about our DD Council funded work. We talked directly with parents, providers, and self-advocates, connecting them to resources and information about autism. These conversations included discussions about developmental monitoring, best practice models when searching for services, and available supports for families and self-advocates in the community. Accordingly, we took a systems-level approach through our participation in the Autism Advocacy Day, combining many of our DD Council activities and goals involving resources, referrals, and developmental monitoring into informal discussions and consultations that directly impacted a multitude of individuals and family members.

The project is progressing as expected, with no additional DDCO support needed at this time. The team identified data collection and participant registration as areas needing greater consistency, particularly because multiple systems, including REDCap and Qualtrics, are currently being used. Internal steps are underway to streamline these processes and improve consistency across the team. The project is also pursuing funding diversification and additional community partnerships, including the potential for an ongoing paid partnership with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. Overall, the project continues to expand awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and connect families and providers to early identification and support resources.

Annual Report for the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

I. Project Summary Information

Project Name: Early Access Oklahoma

Organization Name: Oklahoma Autism Center

Organization Contacts: Seth Kastner and Juliana Vanderburg

Email: seth-kastner@ou.edu; juliana-vanderburg@ou.edu

Early Access Team Members

PI/Project Director and Psychologist - Kathryn Moore, PhD
Psychologist and Autism Specialist -Juliana Vanderburg, PhD
CDC Act Early Ambassador-Bonnie McBride, PhD, BCBA
Outreach and Research/Project Evaluation Coordinator – Seth Kastner
Financial and Contract Support Coordinator - Gina Bryan
Project Facilitator - Margaret Bergant

II. Project Final Results

Executive Summary

During this contract period, we continued our efforts to increase awareness and identification of autism spectrum disorder. Project activities included trainings focused on developmental monitoring, screening, and early identification, as well as direct family support, building of community partnerships, and direct screening services. We expanded our reach to new audiences, including childcare providers, tribal communities, military-connected childcare staff, and Spanish-speaking providers and families. We also continued to strengthen our network of community screening partners and disseminated developmental monitoring resources throughout the state.

BY THE NUMBERS…

During this contract year, our project provided:

• Training on autism, developmental monitoring, and screening for **366 professionals and community members**.

• **50 developmental screenings** for children with developmental concerns.

• **53 screening-related referrals or consultations** for families.

• **195 instances of resource assistance and referrals** for families.

• **28 consultations and resource contacts** with community professionals.

• Distribution of developmental monitoring materials, including **246 CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early books**, as well as ongoing dissemination of English and Spanish developmental monitoring resources.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS…

Collaboration with other stakeholders and professionals in early childhood, healthcare, and related fields continued to be the heart of our project.

Partners and Collaborators

- Oklahoma State Department of Health Child Guidance
- SoonerSUCCESS
- Chickasaw Nation Pediatric Collaborative

- YMCA of Greater Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
- Preschool Development Grant
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Tinker Air Force Base Child Care and After School Programs
- Interprofessional Pediatric Screening Initiative (IPSI)
- Metropolitan Library System
- Acts 2 United Methodist Church
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- OU Health Child Study Center
- OU Health Allied Health Programs

Challenges

a. Personnel transitions required additional planning, coordination, and redistribution of responsibilities among remaining team members. Despite these shifts, project activities and timelines continued as planned.

b. Communicating with and maintaining momentum with potential community partners sometimes proved challenging. In some cases, planned collaborations were delayed due to difficulties establishing or maintaining communication with partner organizations.

c. We continued to encounter barriers related to participant attendance for screenings and worked to address these challenges through reminder calls, flexible scheduling practices, and ongoing communication with families.

d. As our project activities expanded, we recognized the need to further streamline data collection and participant registration processes across multiple platforms to maximize efficiency and consistency.

Lessons Learned

a. We learned additional strategies for coordinating multiple projects with related goals while ensuring accurate tracking, reporting, and accountability across funding sources and partnerships.

b. We learned the value of flexible scheduling practices and reminder contacts in helping families successfully participate in developmental screenings and related services.

c. We learned the importance of cultivating multiple partnerships simultaneously to ensure continued progress when communication challenges arise with individual organizations.

d. We identified opportunities to improve consistency in data collection, participant registration, and project tracking systems to better support future growth and sustainability.

Sustainability Plans

a. We continued to follow our sustainability model of leveraging existing partnerships, diversifying funding sources, and utilizing DDCO-supported activities as a foundation for expanded services. Throughout the year, we integrated developmental monitoring activities into ongoing Oklahoma Autism Center initiatives and supplemented our work through partnerships with organizations including the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Chickasaw Nation, and the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. We worked to diversify funding sources through the acquisition of supplemental grants (e.g., the Preschool Development Grant). **b.** We continued to explore opportunities for ongoing fee-for-service and contract-supported training partnerships. Discussions regarding continued collaborations with organizations such as Tinker Air Force Base and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe demonstrated promising opportunities for sustained impact beyond the current contract period.

c. We continued widespread dissemination of CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early materials and developmental monitoring resources in both English and Spanish to encourage long-term adoption of developmental monitoring practices across community settings.

Project Visibility and Outreach

a. We conducted outreach through social media activities, including developmental milestone awareness messaging and developmental monitoring education.

b. We engaged community members through booths and networking opportunities at events including the Oklahoma Autism Conference, Groovin' for Autism, and the Autism Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

c. We conducted outreach through presentations, trainings, conferences, and partnerships with organizations including the Metropolitan Library System, childcare providers, tribal organizations, and health and education professionals throughout Oklahoma.

d. We expanded accessibility efforts through distribution of Spanish-language developmental monitoring resources, including our Spanish-language "Let's Play" guide and CDC developmental monitoring materials.

Sooner SUCCESS, Family Respite Retreats & Sibling Retreat

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	0	0	**0**
# of family members who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	25	77	**102**
# of others who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	0	0	**0**
# of retreats held	0	0	1	3	**4**
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling overnight camp				12	**12**
# of siblings who participated in sibling overnight camp				14	**14**
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling overnight camp				23	**23**
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling day camp				23	**23**
# of siblings who participated in sibling day camp				33	**33**
# of families who received respite due to sibling day camp				30	**30**
# of others who participated in sibling day camp				38	**38**
# of sibling day camps held				4	**4**

Quarter 4 Activities

Region 1- Roman Nose State Lodge Watonga, April 17-19, 2026
Region 2- Stoney Creek Hotel Broken Arrow, April 26-27, 2026
Region 3- Embassy Suites NW Exp OKC, May 1-2, 2026
Overnight Sibling Camp (Camp Trivera) – April 24-26, 2026
Enid Sibling Day Camp – May 22, 2026
Weatherford Sibling Day Camp – May 29-30, 2026
Lincoln County Sibling Day Camp – May 30, 2026
Poteau Sibling Day Camp – June 6, 2026

During the fourth quarter, Sooner SUCCESS provided meaningful respite and support to caregivers through regional Caregiver Retreats. Retreats were held in Regions 1, 2, and 3, with strong participation across all three locations. The Region 1 retreat at Roman Nose State Park served 22 caregivers, Region 2 welcomed 32 caregivers representing 18 family parties, and approximately 23 caregivers attended the Region 3 retreat in Oklahoma City. Despite severe weather in Region 1, all retreats were successfully held as scheduled. Caregivers participated in massages, crafts, meditation, therapeutic activities, professional photography, games, and educational sessions focused on self-care and available resources.

The retreats provided caregivers with valuable opportunities to step away from their daily responsibilities, recharge, and connect with others who understand the challenges of caregiving. Participants were able to share experiences, exchange information about resources and services, and build supportive relationships that can help reduce isolation. The continued demand for these retreats demonstrates the significant need for caregiver respite, with 915 caregivers statewide having expressed interest since the interest form opened in December

2024. Limited capacity, rising lodging and meal costs, and barriers to reliable respite care continue to make expanding access challenging. Sooner SUCCESS remains committed to increasing awareness of respite and identifying sustainable ways to serve more families.

Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps provided siblings with opportunities for peer connection, emotional support, disability education, and fun while also providing caregivers with valuable respite. Overnight Sibling Camp was held at Camp Trivera and day camps were held in Lincoln County, Weatherford, Poteau, and Enid, with the Tulsa Day Camp postponed until August. Programming intentionally included siblings both with and without developmental disabilities and incorporated inclusive activities, parent education, self-care opportunities, and conversations about the sibling experience. Community partnerships were essential to the success of the camps, with organizations providing volunteers, facilities, accessibility resources, equipment, and family enrichment opportunities. The program also developed comprehensive safety and behavior training for volunteers to ensure a safe and inclusive camp experience.

The impact of Sibling Camp was reflected in strong family and volunteer engagement. Parent feedback indicated that the program provided needed respite and helped families reduce stress, while volunteers reported increased understanding of the unique experiences of siblings of individuals with disabilities. One particularly meaningful experience involved a family navigating the recent loss of a parent; camp provided the children with connection and understanding while giving their mother an opportunity to rest during an extremely difficult time. Another camper with autism and Down syndrome was able to participate more fully through a sensory room and adaptive technology provided through ABLE Tech. These experiences demonstrated how individualized supports and inclusive programming can help children overcome barriers and meaningfully participate.

The project also strengthened long-term community capacity and sustainability. Partnerships with organizations such as CREOKS Mental Health, the Mental Health Association, Great Plains YMCA, Guthrie Job Corps, Able Tech, Carney Public Schools, and Zoe Life Church expanded volunteer and community support. Several communities have committed to continuing a Respite/Sibshop model, helping sustain sibling-focused programming and peer support beyond the initial project period.

Additional funding included a $5,000 grant from the Theresa Foundation for camp supplies and volunteer stipends and a $10,000 Avedis Foundation grant to launch a Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative in Pottawatomie County. This grant opportunity was made possible in large part through the invaluable partnership and support of DDCO in advancing SibCamp and Sibling Day Camp opportunities. DDCO's commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in making these programs successful, accessible, and responsive to the needs of

local families. This strong partnership not only expanded opportunities for siblings but also helped establish the foundation for the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative.

Overall, Sooner SUCCESS continued to demonstrate the importance of family-centered respite, caregiver wellness, and sibling support. Evidence-informed strategies such as self-care activities, parent education, peer support, stress-management exercises, and connections to long-term respite resources strengthened caregiver resilience and family well-being. The project not only provided immediate respite and meaningful experiences for families but also built stronger community partnerships and increased awareness of the needs of siblings and caregivers. Continued funding, outreach, volunteer engagement, and collaboration will be essential to expanding these services and reaching the many Oklahoma families who continue to seek support.

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I. Project Summary Information
Grant Information

Project Name	Caregiver Retreats and Sibling Camps

Organization Name	Sooner SUCCESS

Name of Person writing report	Lori Wathen
Email	Lori-wathen@ou.edu

People who did the work
Please include the first and last name and title for everyone who worked on this project for your organization (not including volunteers).

Deana Wilson, Region 1 Coordinator, Garfield/Kay County Coordinator
Jona Arthur, Blaine/Kingfisher/Major County Coordinator
Heather Collins, Woods/Woodward County Coordinator

Lisa Debolt, Region 2 Coordinator
Rona Tracy, Creek/Payne County Coordinator
Beth Soderfelt, Delaware/Mayes/Rogers County Coordinator
Andee Cooper, Tulsa County Coordinator
Yesenia Cook, Tulsa County Bilingual Coordinator

Lori Wathen, Region 3 Coordinator
Michelle Rico, OK County Bilingual Family Support Coordinator
Janet Wilson, Canadian/Grady County Coordinator
Brandy Parks, Logan/Lincoln County Coordinator

Eva Smith, Region 4 Coordinator, McClain County Coordinator
Sara Pensoneau, Cleveland County Coordinator
Stephanie Redelk, Lifespan Respite Voucher Coordinator, Stephens/Comanche County Coordinator

Aietah Stephens, Executive Director
Mayra Castaneda, Lead Grant/Contract Coordinator, Bilingual Respite Coordinator
Samantha Basave, Statewide Sibling Support Coordinator
Teairra Jackson, TEFRA Family Support Coordinator, Jumpstart Family Partner
Tammy Rayos, Intern

II. Project Final Results (no more than 3 pages)
Executive Summary

The Sooner SUCCESS Caregiver Retreats provided critical respite and support to 102 family caregivers of individuals with disabilities through accessible, wellness-focused retreat experiences. The program offered caregivers an opportunity to step away from their daily responsibilities while building skills, connections, and resilience.

Key outcomes included:

- **Respite:** Caregivers used respite vouchers to arrange substitute care, allowing uninterrupted time for rest and renewal.
- **Wellness:** Self-care activities, including massage, meditation, art, and nature-based recreation, promoted stress reduction and improved well-being.
- **Peer Support:** Social activities fostered meaningful connections among caregivers, reducing isolation and strengthening informal support networks.
- **Education:** Participants received self-care resources, learned about services offered by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO), and gained a better understanding of the effects of chronic stress and strategies for managing caregiver fatigue.
- **Service Navigation:** All retreat participants and individuals on the waitlist received individualized assistance connecting to community resources and appropriate respite services.

The retreats achieved their goal of providing meaningful respite while equipping caregivers with practical resources, expanded support networks, and strategies to sustain their well-being. By combining respite, education, and peer connection, the program strengthened caregivers' capacity to continue supporting their loved ones and contributed to more resilient families across Oklahoma.

The Fourth Annual Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps provided inclusive, supportive experiences for 82 children and young adults (35 with disabilities and 47 neurotypical siblings), ages 8–25, at Camp Trivera and locations across Oklahoma. The program strengthened sibling relationships while fostering connection, confidence, and inclusion.

Key outcomes included:

- **Stronger Family Connections:** Shared experiences strengthened sibling relationships and promoted mutual understanding and support.
- **Peer Support:** Participants connected with others who shared similar family experiences, reducing isolation and building lasting friendships.
- **Personal Development:** Workshops, discussions, and creative activities encouraged self-expression, confidence, and resilience.
- **Inclusive Participation:** Activities such as a dance party and talent show celebrated each participant's unique abilities in a welcoming environment.
- **Family Engagement:** A closing reflection session provided families with resources and opportunities to celebrate their children's growth, while post-program surveys helped evaluate outcomes and guide future program improvements.

The camps created a safe, inclusive environment where siblings could build meaningful relationships, develop new skills, and feel understood, while providing families with resources to strengthen those connections beyond the camp experience.

Challenges and How We Addressed Them

1. Limited Retreat Capacity

- *Challenge:* High caregiver interest far exceeds the number of families we can accommodate (915 submissions vs. 53 available spots).
- *Impact:* Many families remain on waitlists or miss out entirely.
- *Response:* Staff continue to track interest to support future planning and funding efforts, and provide 1:1 service navigation to ensure families still receive some level of support even if they cannot attend.

2. Last-Minute Caregiver Cancellations

- *Challenge:* Life events such as medical emergencies or weather issues (e.g., severe weather, missing child, unexpected visitation) caused some families to cancel retreat attendance at the last minute.
- *Response:* Staff remain flexible and supportive, offering resources and future opportunities to those affected.

3. Rising Costs

- *Challenge:* Increasing **hotel and food costs** have limited how many caregivers we can serve.
- *Response:* The team continues to seek **cost-effective venues and partnerships**, and uses data from interest forms to advocate for increased funding.

4. Respite Provider Availability

- *Challenge:* Some caregivers, especially single parents, struggle to find reliable respite care to attend retreats.
- *Response:* Staff are working to strengthen **respite provider networks** and assist families in accessing existing voucher programs.

5. Obtaining Complete Surveys during Sibling Camps

- *Challenge:* Due to limited time at the end of day camp activities and occasional miscommunication about survey requirements.
- R*esponse:* Follow-up reminders were sent to encourage survey completion. While this created a minor barrier to collecting evaluation data, it did not significantly affect program implementation or the achievement of project goals.

Lessons Learned:

Retreats:

Rising costs for food, program supplies, and lodging increased overall program expenses, although some state lodging rates remained stable. To maximize participation and efficiently manage limited capacity, an interest form and waiting list were implemented, allowing the team to quickly fill cancellations while connecting additional caregivers with available services and respite voucher opportunities.

Camp Support & Accessibility:

Recruiting volunteers for overnight and sibling day camps remained an ongoing challenge; however, volunteer participation reached its highest level to date across all camp sites, helping to support successful program implementation. Several day camps, including the Lincoln County site, also incorporated a parent component that provided caregivers with opportunities for self-care, peer support, and meaningful conversation. Programming remained consistent across all camp locations, ensuring a high-quality experience for participants.

Event Logistics & Adjustments:

Scheduling constraints affected planning for future retreats, as the preferred fall timeframe offers more favorable weather for Region 1; however, the desired venue was fully booked for Fall 2026, requiring the next retreat to be scheduled for Spring 2027. Additional challenges included the hotel's $50 incidental hold on caregivers' personal credit cards, which created inconvenience for some participants. To enhance future retreats, a dedicated social hour before dinner is considered to provide caregivers with additional opportunities to connect, network, and build supportive relationships.

Testimonials:

The Tulsa Caregiver Retreat created meaningful opportunities to identify and respond to family needs beyond the event itself. During the retreat, the Tulsa County Coordinator connected with a parent seeking support to establish an adaptive Little League program. Through technical assistance and ongoing collaboration, the league was successfully launched and now serves 13 players, expanding inclusive recreational opportunities for children with disabilities in the community.

A young couple shared that the Region 4 Retreat provided their first real opportunity for relief and respite from the demands of caring for their children. They deeply appreciated the chance to step away, recharge, and reconnect as a couple. The experience also reminded them that it is okay to take time for themselves—and that asking for help is an important part of caring for their family.

A single mom shared how much she appreciated Region 3 Retreat and the opportunity to connect with like-minded parents who truly understood what she was going through. Being surrounded by others who shared similar experiences was comforting and reassuring, reminding her that she was not alone in her journey.

Following the recent loss of their dad, a mother and her two children arrived at Overnight Sibling Camp carrying grief and uncertainty. As a newly single parent, Mom struggled to leave her children at camp but hoped the experience would provide them with connection and a chance to heal while giving her much-needed respite. During Sibshop activities, the sibling shared his sadness over losing his father and his worries about his mom and sister, who has Level 3 autism. Connecting with other siblings helped him feel understood and gave him space to express both his love for his sister and the pressures of being a sibling supporter. For his sister, camp was a major challenge, as she had never spent extended time away from home and struggled with transitions. With patience and support, she persevered and accomplished something her family once thought impossible. By the end of camp, the family was deeply grateful. The experience offered connection, respite, and hope during an incredibly difficult time.

A 14-year-old camper with autism and Down syndrome faced challenges participating in traditional camp activities. Through a partnership with ABLE Tech, he gained access to a sensory room with adaptive equipment and support tailored to his needs. The space helped him communicate, self-regulate, and engage more independently, giving him greater confidence and comfort. With this individualized support, he was able to move beyond simply attending camp to meaningfully participating and thriving. His experience demonstrated the powerful impact of accessibility, collaboration, and inclusion.

Sustainability Plans:

Sooner SUCCESS remains deeply committed to caregiver well-being, self-care, and access to respite. To ensure the long-term availability of these vital programs, we continue to advocate for respite awareness and collaborate with state agencies for support.

For Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camp, sustainability remains a key concern. Ongoing challenges include securing reliable funding and maintaining strong partnerships and volunteer involvement to uphold safety, meaningful engagement, and program quality. While the need for these camps is clear, expanding and sustaining them will require increased support and investment.

A $5,000 grant from the Theresa Foundation supported camp supplies and provided stipends for Sibling Camp volunteers, helping to strengthen and sustain meaningful camp experiences for siblings.

Children's Health Foundation (CHF), on behalf of Sooner SUCCESS, also received a $10,000 grant from the Avedis Foundation to launch the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative, a new program designed to strengthen support and resources for families of children with disabilities in Pottawatomie County.

This grant opportunity was made possible in large part through the invaluable partnership and support of DDCO in advancing SibCamp and Sibling Day Camp opportunities. DDCO's commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in making these programs successful, accessible, and responsive to the needs of local families. This strong partnership not only expanded opportunities for siblings but also helped establish the foundation for the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative.

Project Visibility and Outreach:

The DDCO logo is prominently featured on several retreat materials, including the Oklahoma Family Caregiver Respite Retreat Interest Form, the final registration form, the event flyer, and the Sibling Camp flyer and banner. During the retreat, DDCO will be recognized as the event funder multiple times, with either a live representative speaking or a video presentation created by Jen Randle. Additionally, the retreat has been promoted through the Sooner SUCCESS Facebook page, newsletter, and website, further acknowledging DDCO's sponsorship and support. Information about the retreats and sibling camps was widely distributed to various partners through email and social media platforms. Aietah Stephens and Samantha Basave were interviewed on Channel 9 (Front Porch) to discuss the sibling camp opportunities.

III. Final Budget Report

Budget Summary

Please provide a final project budget, showing all costs of the project, including all match funding. Remember, match funding includes volunteers. If volunteers were used, please explain. Documentation is needed for volunteer time to count towards match. Please ask us what is needed. If there were significant changes to the proposed project budget, please explain.

$77,906.61 (this is through end of May, University still working on closing out final project)
*will send final numbers when we receive from University
$39,103.48 in match for volunteer hours for Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps:

- 30 volunteers (Sibling Camp) for 30hrs= 900hrs
- 26 volunteers (Sibling Day Camps) for 7hrs= 182hrs
- Oklahoma Volunteer Time Rate = $36.14 per hour per Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time - Independent Sector

$5314.03 in donations/in-kind to Caregiver Retreats




Sibling Camp
Together is Better
Sibling Camp


















PERVASIVE PARENTING CENTER
C.P.C.
Pervasive Parenting Center
Overview


the Y

Sibling Camps

732 Hours of Respite Provided

82 Kids Served

35 Siblings with Disabilities Served

42 Families Served

Sibling Day Camps | Overnight Camp

Lincoln County Sibling Day Camp 9-3
May 30, 2026
Facilitators: 4
Volunteers: 13
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 10
Respite: 5
Total Kids Served: 20
Total Families Served: 9
Respite Hours Provided: 54

Weatherford Sibling Day Camp (9-3)
May 29-30 2026
Facilitators: 2
Volunteers: 6
Ages: Kids 5-14: 4
Ages: Kids 15+: 1
Respite: 4
Total Kids Served: 9
Total Families Served: 5
Respite Hours Provided: 30

Enid Sibling Day Camp (9-3)
May 22, 2026
Facilitators: 4
Volunteers: 4
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 0
Respite: 6
Total Kids Served: 11
Total Families Served: 8
Respite Hours Provided: 48

Tulsa Sibling Day Camp
Postponed to August 7

Poteau Sibling Day Camp
June 6 , 2026
Facilitators: 2
Volunteers: 3
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 3
Respite: 8
Total Kids Served: 16
Total Families Served: 8
Respite Hours Provided: 48

Sibling Camp
April 24-26 (46 hours)
Facilitators: 2
Staff: 14
Volunteers: 30
Ages: Kids 5-14: 12
Ages: Kids 15+: 2
Respite: 12
Total Kids Served: 26
Total Families Served: 12
Respite Hours Provided: 552





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Sibshops

OKLAHOMA Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

SIBLING CAMP



INTEREST FORM

APRIL 24-26

Requirements: For siblings with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilites ages 8-25 & siblings without special needs ages 8-16

Fun and Creative Indoor Activities
Application Does NOT Guarantee Acceptance

QUESTIONS?
405-271-2710
SOONER-SUCCESS@OUHSC.EDU
SOONERSUCCESS.OUHSC.EDU







Sibling Camp (Overnight)

1,058 Hours of Respite Provided
Kids Served

Sibling Camp successfully provided meaningful respite and support to families of children with disabilities while creating a positive and enriching experience for siblings. Parent survey results demonstrated overwhelmingly positive outcomes, with 100% of caregivers reporting that the program allowed them to take a break from caregiving responsibilities, reduced overall family stress, and benefitted their family unit. Additionally, 100% of caregivers indicated they would not have been able to access respite if Sibling Camp had not been available, highlighting the program's critical role in addressing an unmet community need.

The camp also successfully reached new families, with all participating children attending a sibling camp for the first time. During their respite time, nearly 79% of caregivers reported feeling not at all stressed, indicating that the camp provided a valuable opportunity for rest and rejuvenation—many explaining that their stress came from worry for how their camper would do rather than fear. Overall satisfaction was exceptionally high, with 100% of caregivers reporting they were either very satisfied or extremely satisfied with the program.

Qualitative feedback further reinforced these findings. Families expressed gratitude for the opportunity, described feeling refreshed and supported, and noted the value of sibling bonding, family connection, and meaningful respite. Several parents shared that the camp provided their first opportunity in years to spend uninterrupted time with a spouse or other children, emphasizing the significant impact of the program on family well-being.

Overall, Sibling Camp successfully strengthened families, reduced caregiver stress, expanded access to sibling support services, and provided essential respite opportunities that would not otherwise have been available to participating families.

Sibling Camp Surveys
Caregivers

What County do You live in



Summary (12 responses total):

- **Oklahoma County:** 5 responses (42%)
- **Cleveland:** 1 (8%)
- **Tulsa:** 1 (8%)
- **Comanche:** 1 (8%)
- **Blaine:** 1 (8%)
- **McClain:** 1 (8%)
- **Canadian:** 1 (8%)
- **Garfield:** 1 (8%)

Do you believe that your children's participation in the Sibling Camp allowed you to have a break from your caregiver duties?



Quick Summary:

- **Strongly Agree:** 10 (83%)
- **Agree:** 2 (17%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Do you believe that Sibling Camp benefitted your overall family unit?



Summary (11 responses):

- **Strongly Agree:** 8 responses (73%)
- **Agree:** 3 responses (27%)

How did this extra time help your loved one?

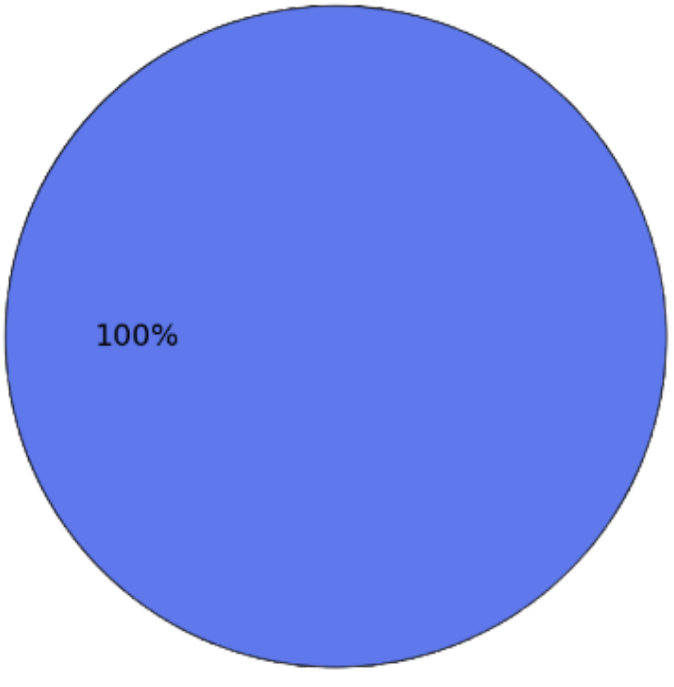


Summary (12 responses):

- **Social Interaction:** 8 responses (67%)
- **Independence:** 4 responses (33%)

Sibling Camp Surveys
Caregivers

Do you feel your children's participation in this sibling camp helped reduce the overall stress in your family?



Summary (12 responses):

- **Yes:** 12 responses (100%)

During your actual respite time (from caregiving duties), how would you describe your stress level as a result of Sibling Camp?



Summary (12 responses):

- **Not at all stressed:** 9 responses (75%)
- **Moderately stressed:** 2 responses (17%)
- **Somewhat stressed:** 1 response (8%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Have your children ever participated in a sibling camp before?



Summary:

- **No:** 100% (9 responses)

Would you be able to have respite if this sibling camp was unavailable?



Summary:

- **No:** 100% (15 responses)

Sibling Camp Surveys
Caregivers

Caregivers Quotes:

“We are so thankful for this opportunity. The girls had a great time and had their first camp experience.”

“Nothing, this has been amazing ! God bless you all”

“Thank you so much for this opportunity!
It was incredible! Everything ran so smoothly and it was our first time to be home alone since (he) was born
I think it’s a great idea and bonding time for siblings.

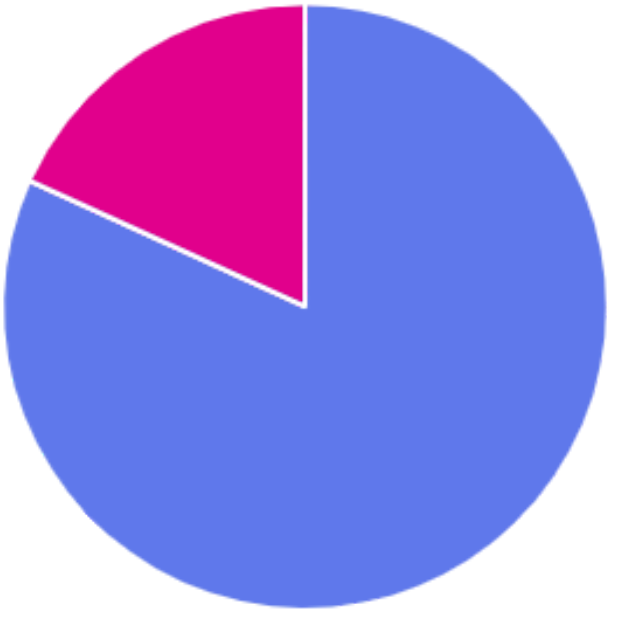
Thank you SO much for this weekend. They had so much fun! My husband and I got to rest and spend some intentional time with our oldest. Did I mention we got to sleep?! 🙏👏

Great camp! Very happy with it and we feel so refreshed

This was great!

Sibling Camp Surveys
Siblings

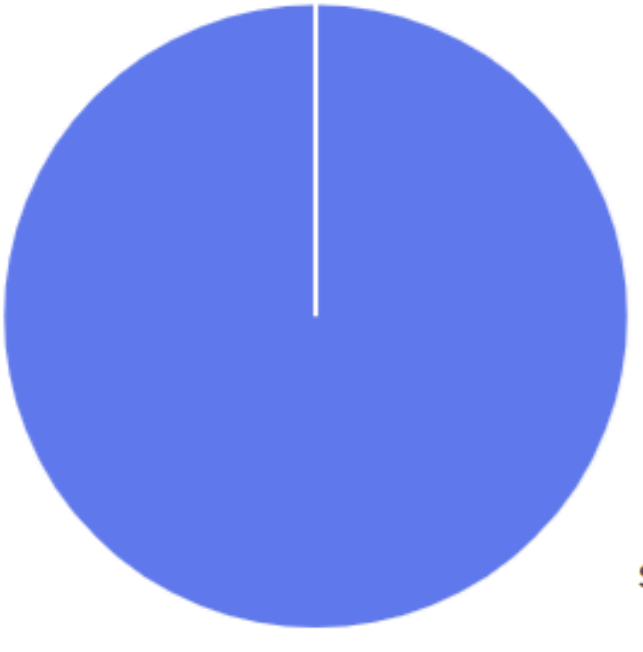
Overall Experience



Quick breakdown:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 82%
- **Satisfied:** 18%

Activities During Sibling Camp

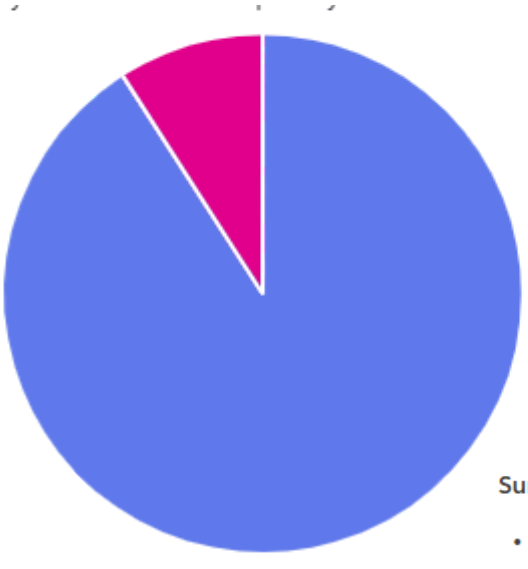


Summary:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 100% (11 out of 11 responses)

Sibling Camp Surveys
Siblings

Have you ever attended camp with your brother or sister?

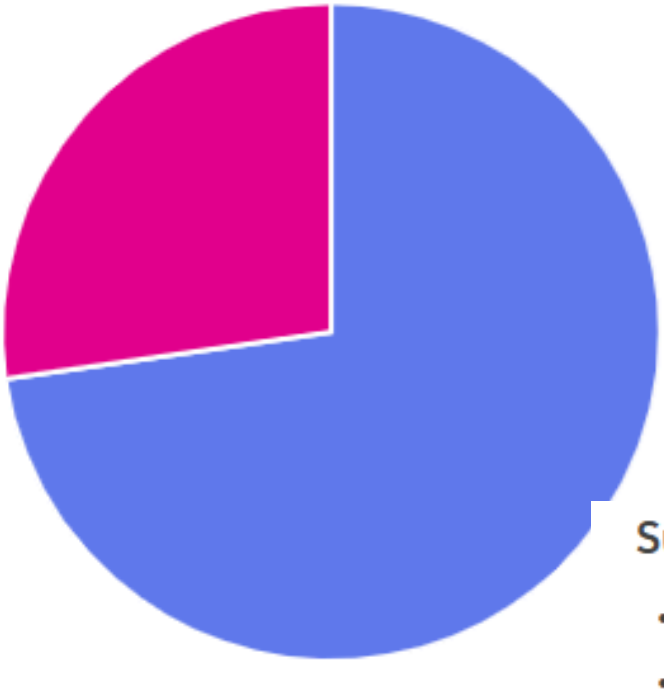


Summary:

- **No:** 10 responses (91%)
- **Yes:** 1 response (9%)

Tell Something You Liked
The community, like the volunteers and siblings, were really nice and cool!
Meetting people
All the animals, they were so cool. And the people
The Bed
Canoeing
The Activities
Have friends and experiences
Connecting with other Siblings
N/A
Zip Lines
Everything

How you Feel About Connecting with Other Siblings That Have Brothers/Sisters with Disabilities



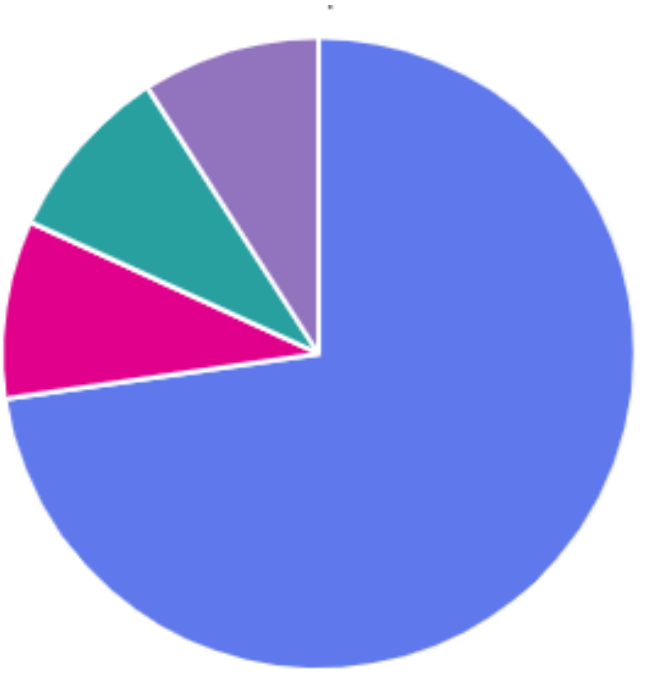
Summary:

- 😍: 8 responses (73%)
- 😊: 3 responses (27%)

Give A Suggestion
None, I'd lowkey keep it the same
N/A
I think it would be cool to have more activities like nature walks and painting
Make a dog theme
Bigger boats on the water
N/A
Keep it the same, really great!
N/A
N/A
Swiming
Come Here!

Sibling Camp Surveys
Campers with Disabilities

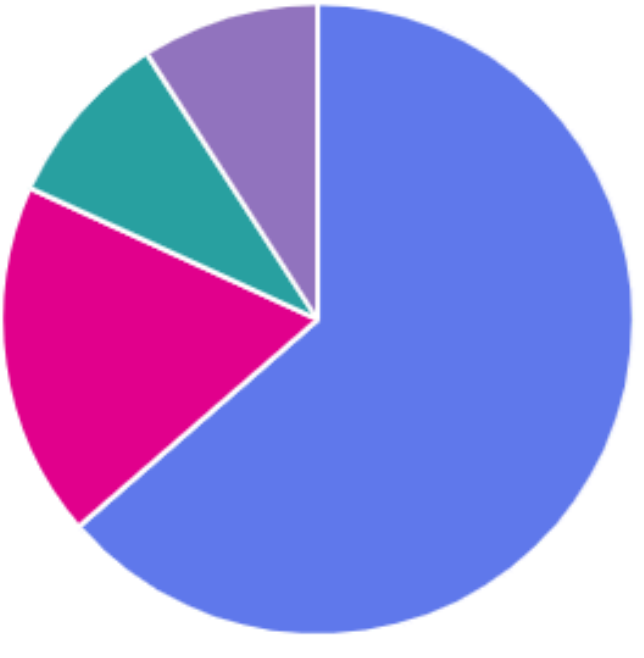
Overall Experience



Summary:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 8 responses (73%)
- **Satisfied:** 1 response (9%)
- **Neutral:** 1 response (9%)
- **Highly Dissatisfied:** 1 response (9%)

Activities During Sibling Camp

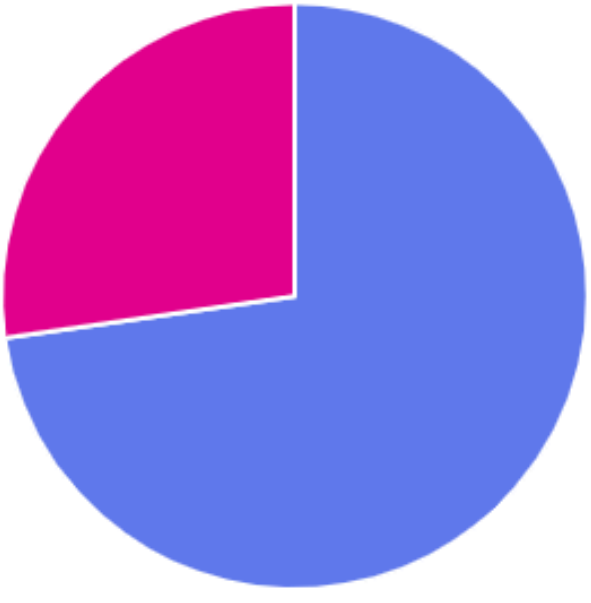


Summary:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 7 responses (64%)
- **Satisfied:** 2 responses (18%)
- **Neutral:** 1 response (9%)
- **Highly Dissatisfied:** 1 response (9%)

Sibling Camp Surveys
Campers with Disabilities

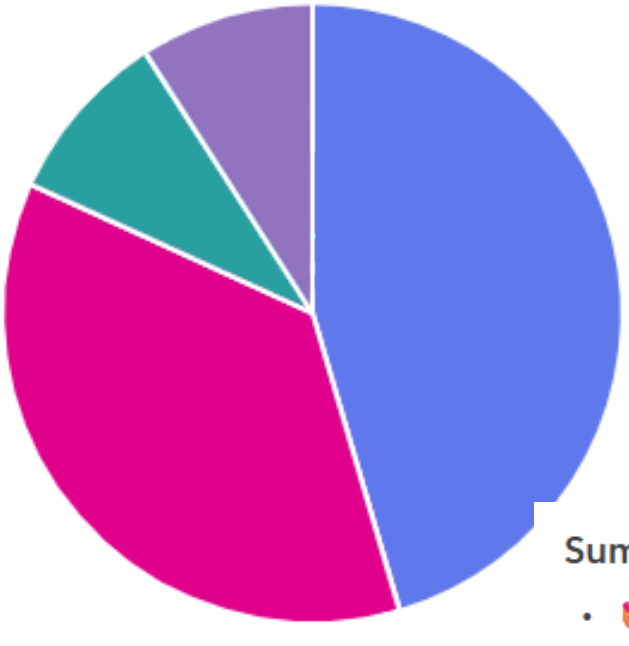
Have you ever attended camp with your brother or sister?



Summary:

- **No:** 8 responses (73
- **Yes:** 3 responses (27

How you Feel About Connecting with Other Siblings That Have Brothers/Sisters with Disabilities



Summary:

- 😍: 5 responses (45%)
- 😊: 4 responses (36%)
- 😟: 1 response (9%)
- 😳: 1 response (9%)

Tell Something You Liked
Rock, Paper, Scissors, scoot
Pickleball
Anson and his sister Lily, Zip line
I loved the fan.
Canoes, hammock, dogs, music, music therapy, lady
Brian+Tyler
He liked the music and dance party
Dogs
Eating lots of food
All of it
Sensory room
making bracelets
3D printed name tags
Watching Toy Story on MS. Sam's iPad and taking strolls outside

Give A Suggestion
N/A
Target practice (archery)
loss of time away from sibs
More fruit
More Ramps! Shower chair!
More music, maybe Rap? (clean) of course
Good time step stool to get on the bed
Basketball, bouncy house
More conuing
None
May have a quiet room for overstimulated friends like me to consider games for friends and me who are easily overstimulated. I liked the overnight camp, but missed my mom and grandma. Maybe 1 overnight me

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OKLAHOMA Human Services

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sibshops

ENID SIBLING DAY CAMP



JOIN US FOR A FREE ACTION PACKED DAY CAMP FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

REQUIREMENTS: FOR SIBLINGS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITES AGES 8-25 & SIBLINGS WITHOUT SPECIAL NEEDS AGES 8-16

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 8

Day 1	TIME	
FRIDAY MAY 22	10AM-3PM	Zoe Bible Church of Enid 729 E Maine Ave, Enid, OK 73701

Activities ✔ Outdoor Play ✔ Have Fun ✔ Game Time ✔ Sibling Connection ✔ Parent group ✔ Respite

Questions? Emily Cordova 580-747-7709

Sign Up Today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





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OKLAHOMA Human Services

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sibshops

LINCOLN COUNTY SIBLING DAY CAMP



Carney Public Schools



JOIN US FOR A FREE ACTION PACKED DAY CAMP FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

REQUIREMENTS: FOR SIBLINGS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITES AGES 8-25 & SIBLINGS WITHOUT SPECIAL NEEDS AGES 8-16

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 15

SATURDAY MAY 30	10AM-3PM	203 Carney St, Carney, OK 74832

Activities ✔ Outdoor Play ✔ Have Fun ✔ Game Time ✔ Sibling Connection ✔ Parent group ✔ Respite

Questions? Brandy Parks 405-271-2710

Sign Up Today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





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OKLAHOMA Human Services

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sibshops

POTEAU SIBLING DAY CAMP



PERVASIVE PARENTING CENTER C.P.R.C.

JOIN US FOR A FREE ACTION PACKED DAY CAMP FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

REQUIREMENTS: FOR SIBLINGS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITES AGES 8-25 & SIBLINGS WITHOUT SPECIAL NEEDS AGES 8-16

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 22

Day 1	TIME	
SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	10:00AM-3PM	1507 S McKenna St, Poteau, OK 74953

Activities ✔ Outdoor Play ✔ Have Fun ✔ Game Time ✔ Sibling Connection ✔ Respite

Questions? Samantha Basave 405-593-9266

Sign Up Today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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OKLAHOMA Human Services

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sibshops

WEATHERFORD SIBLING DAY CAMP the Y



Stafford AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

JOIN US FOR A FREE ACTION PACKED DAY CAMP FOR SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

REQUIREMENTS: FOR SIBLINGS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITES AGES 8-25 & SIBLINGS WITHOUT SPECIAL NEEDS AGES 8-16

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 15

Day 1	TIME	
FRIDAY MAY 29	10:00AM-3PM	Great Plains YMCA 1400 N Airport Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096
Day 2 - Family Field Trip SATURDAY MAY 30	TIME 10:00AM-3PM	Stafford Air & Space Museum 3000 Logan Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096

FREE! Sponsored by Stafford Air and Space Museum

Activities ✔ Outdoor Play ✔ Have Fun ✔ Game Time ✔ Sibling Connection

Questions? Marissa Murley 580-772-0202 mmurley@ymcaokc.org

Sign Up Today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





Sibling Day Camp

180 Hours of Respite Provided
56 Kids Served
23 Siblings with Disabilities Served
30 Families Served

Beyond the immediate benefits to participating families, the Sibling Day Camps have helped establish a strong framework for sustainable, community-based respite services across Oklahoma. By successfully bringing together schools, faith-based organizations, local businesses, disability service providers, volunteers, and family support networks, the project demonstrated how communities can collaborate to create meaningful respite opportunities that are both accessible and cost-effective.

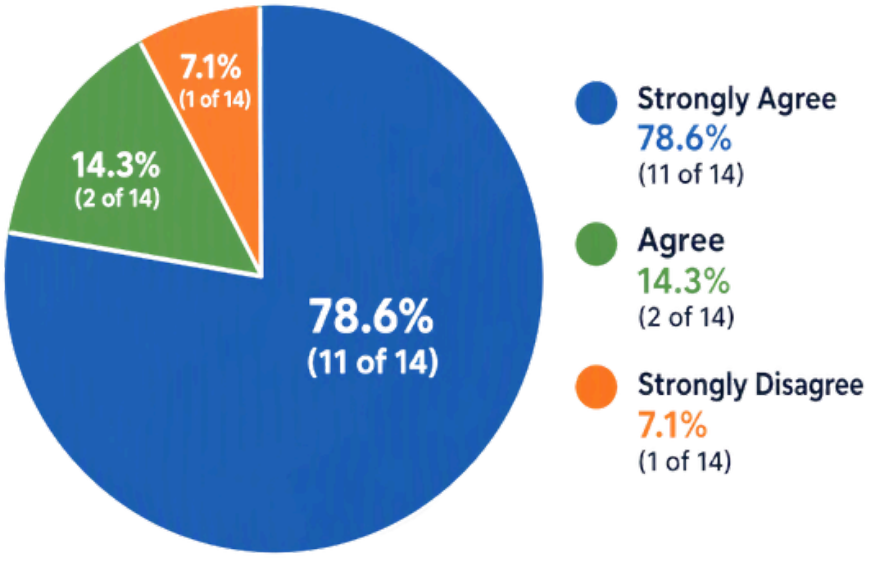
These efforts have helped set a standard of practice for local respite programming by emphasizing family-centered supports, inclusive participation, community partnerships, volunteer engagement, and accessibility accommodations. Through the development of these partnerships and the training of volunteers, communities have gained the knowledge, resources, and confidence needed to continue supporting siblings and families beyond the scope of this grant.

The project also increased awareness of the critical role respite plays in strengthening family well-being. As a result, community organizations and volunteers expressed interest in continuing their involvement with future Sibshops, sibling camps, and related disability-support initiatives. This growing network of engaged partners creates a foundation for ongoing respite opportunities and strengthens local capacity to meet the needs of families of individuals with disabilities.

By providing 180 hours of respite, serving 56 children, including 23 siblings with disabilities, and supporting 30 families, the program not only delivered immediate benefits but also fostered lasting community connections and a replicable model that can continue to improve access to respite services throughout Oklahoma.

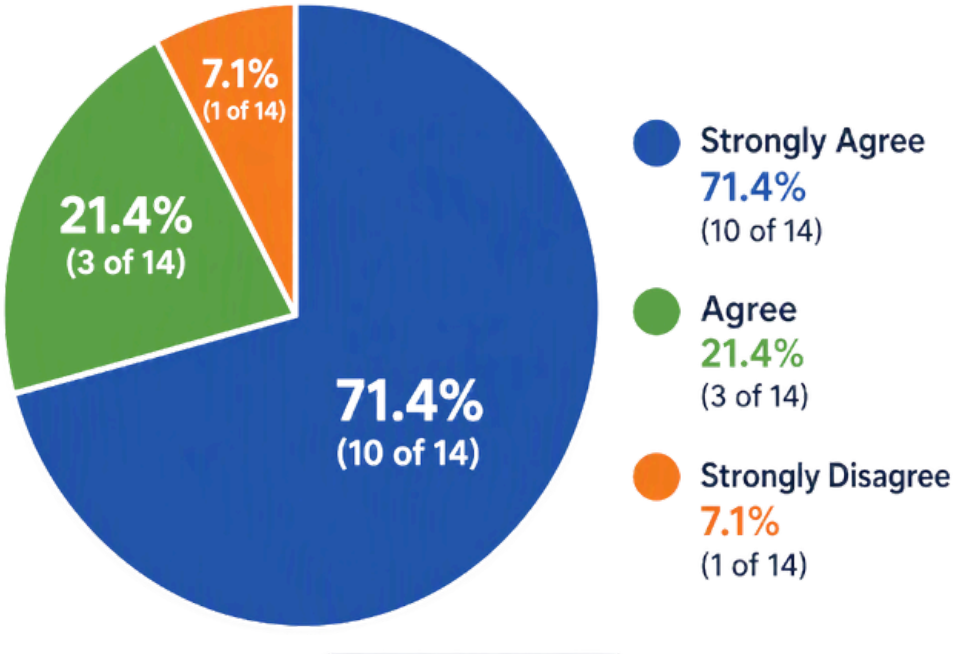
Sibling Day Camp Surveys
Caregivers

Did your children's participation in the Sibling Camp allow you to have a break from your caregiver duties?



n = 14 respondents

Do you believe that Sibling Camp benefitted your overall family unit?

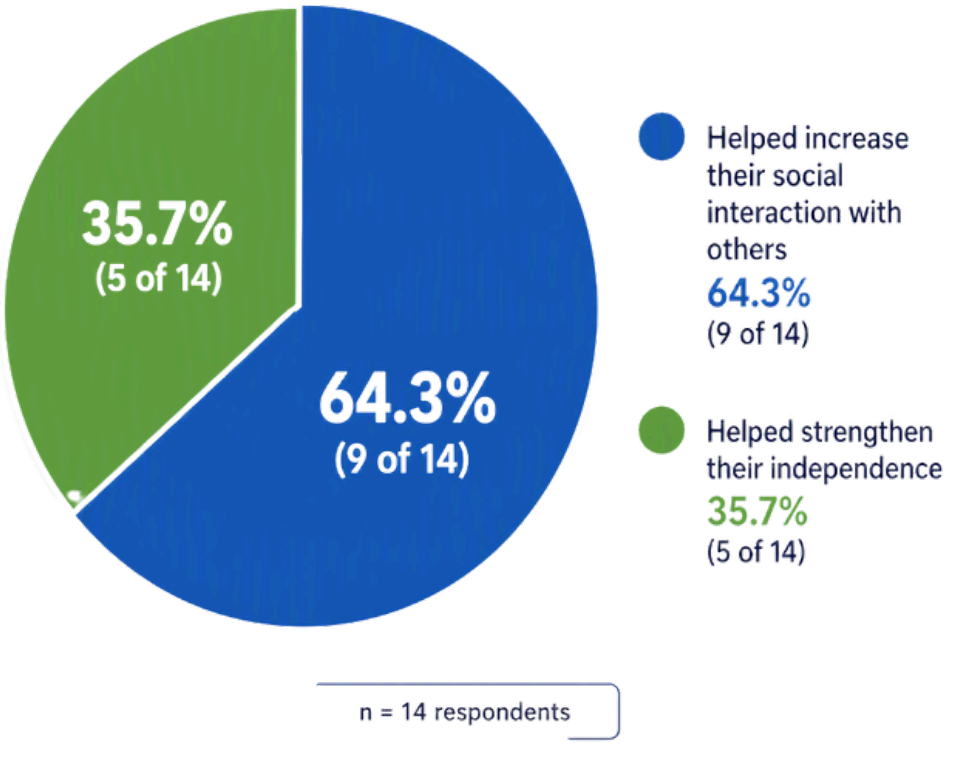


n = 14 respondents

Sibling Day Camp Surveys

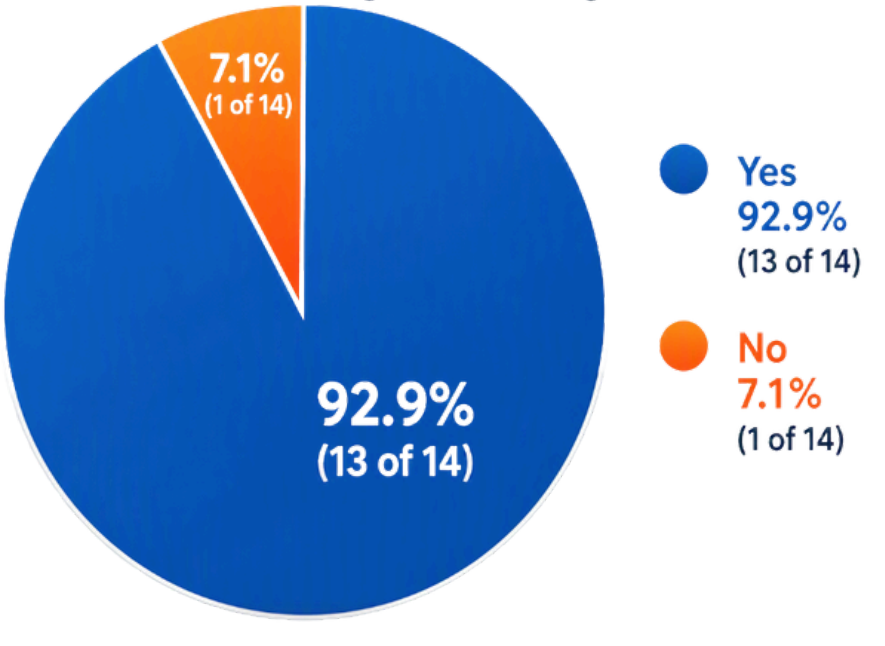
Caregivers

How did this extra time help your loved one?



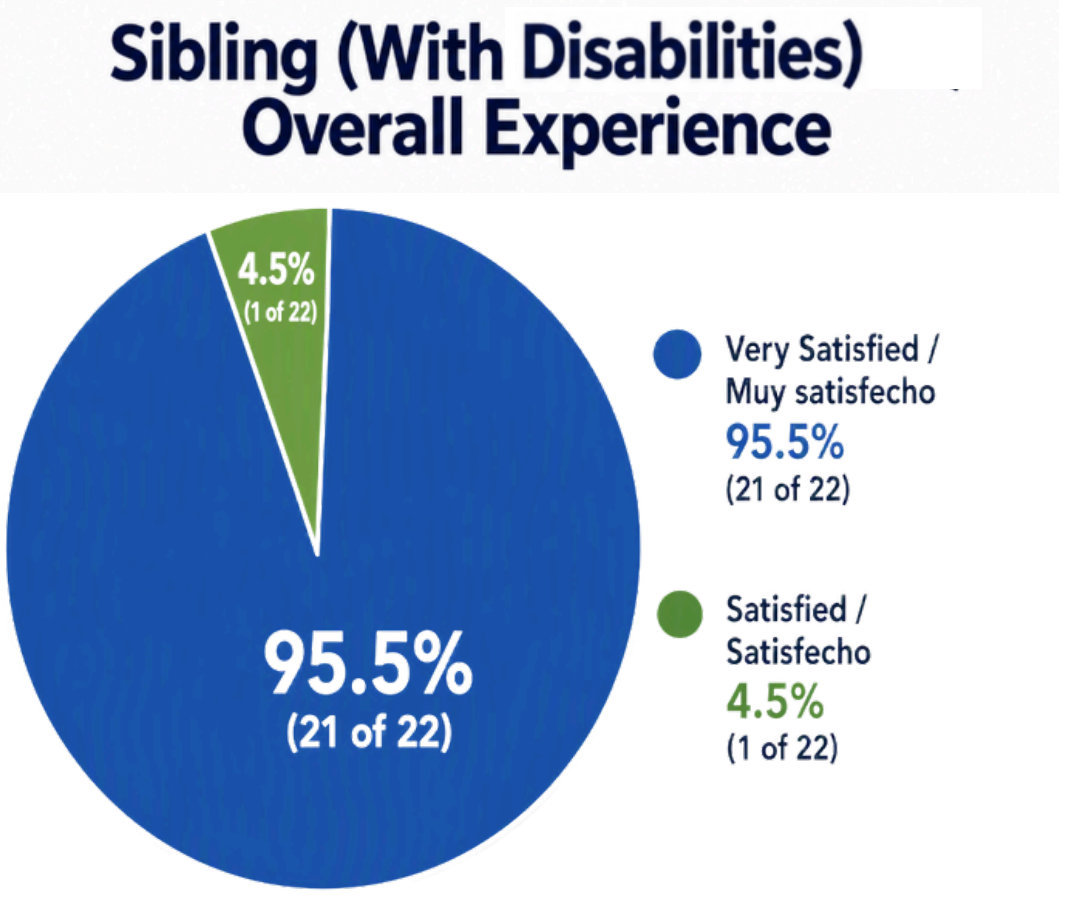
n = 14 respondents

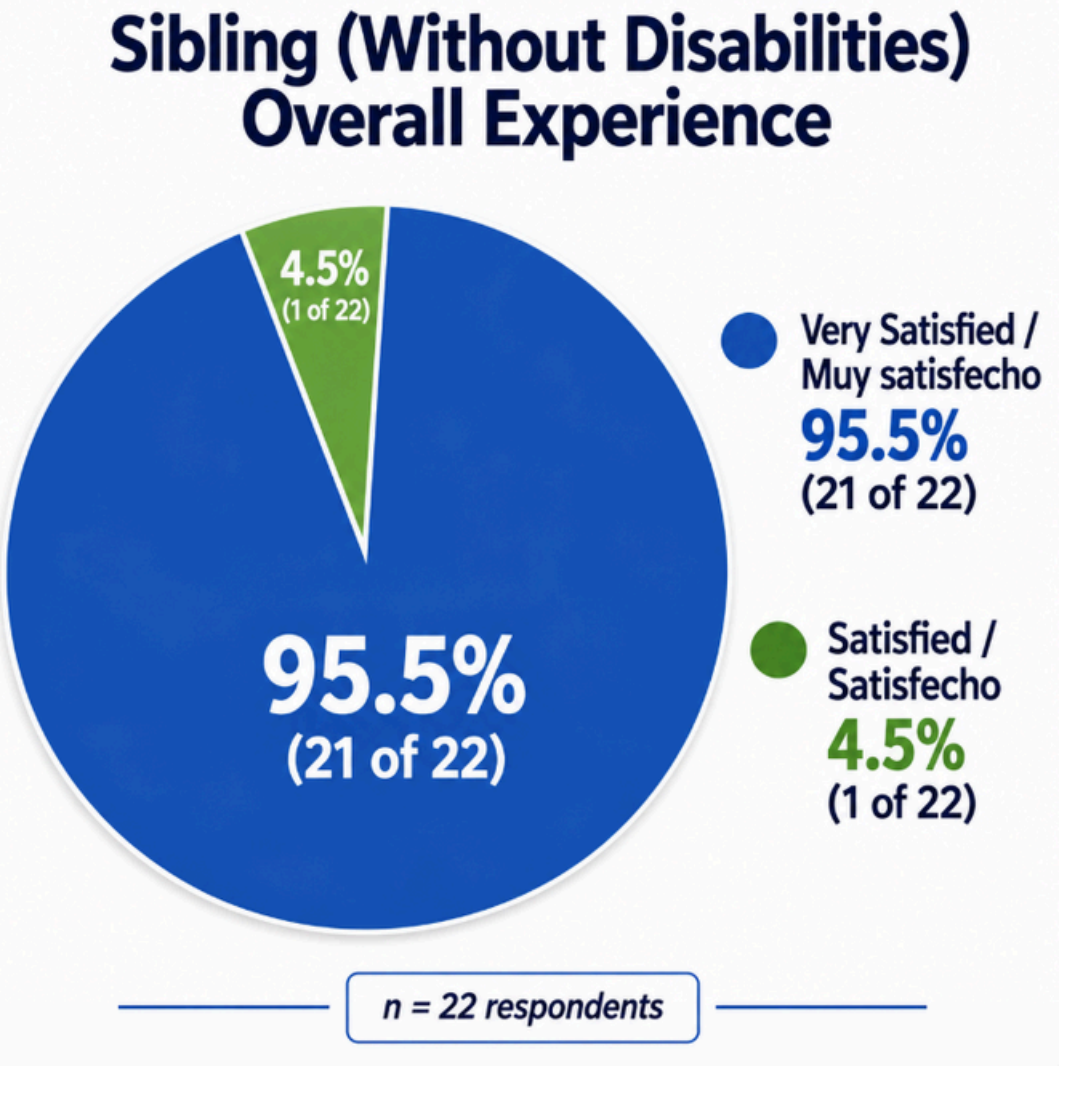
Do you feel your children's participation in this Sibling Camp helped reduce the overall stress in your family?



Sibling Day Camp Surveys

Siblings





Sibling Day Camp Surveys

Quotes

Games and bunny
They loved the bunny, sensory play and their sibling loved meeting other sibs
Everything!
She liked the cup game, coloring, making friends
water balloons, slime, friends
Slime, more activities for teens
Slime, playground, activities, ice cream
Water balloons, slime
He really liked coloring and the magnetic tiles

They loved everything about it .
Liked doing things with other kids. The crafts
Everything is perfect!
They liked all the activities. There wasn't anything they disliked.
I loved connecting with them on a personal level
Loved this!
Environment
All the Games
Slime
Spoon games
Everything
Hanging out with Russel
Kruz talking to everyone



Thank you to our Sponsors:

Thank you to our Partners:

Zoë Life Church of Enid

SE Region Youth Expedition

Type of Attendee	Attended
# of individuals with DD who participated in council activity	33
# of Family Member/Caregiver who participated in council activity	24
# served as peer counselors, staff, nursing support, and volunteers	29

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 was a four-day transition and leadership camp for youth and young adults with disabilities, ages 14–24, from across Southeast Oklahoma. Funded through a $20,000 grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma and implemented through a partnership between Oklahoma Family Network and Pervasive Parenting Center, the program served 33 participants representing 13 school districts in four counties. Hosted at Carl Albert State College, the overnight camp provided hands-on learning in self-advocacy, independent living, financial literacy, leadership, communication, goal setting, and transition planning. The initiative also included parent training for 15 parents and a sibling camp serving nine children, creating a comprehensive family-centered experience.

The project successfully met all contract goals and timeline milestones through strong collaboration with Carl Albert State College, Sooner Success, the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation, and other community partners. The implementation of the event was supported by 29 additional individuals, including a registered nurse, staff, volunteers, and peer counselors who received leadership training and served as mentors throughout the event. Participant evaluations demonstrated outstanding outcomes, with 98% reporting increased knowledge, 96% finding the experience useful, and 98% indicating they planned to apply the skills they learned. Campers highlighted self-advocacy, practical life skills, confidence, and new friendships as the most meaningful benefits, while peer counselors also reported growth in leadership, communication, and disability awareness.

The Youth Expedition produced lasting impacts beyond the four-day event by strengthening regional collaboration and establishing a sustainable model for transition programming in rural Oklahoma. The partnership created a repeatable peer counselor leadership model, expanded family engagement, and developed accessible transition materials that will continue to be used through camps, youth groups, schools, and community programs. Although coordinating individualized supports, transportation, and overnight accommodations required significant planning, the experience reinforced the

importance of early preparation, flexible accommodations, and ongoing family communication. Grant expenditures totaled $19,984.08 of the $20,000 award, and we are actively pursuing additional funding and community partnerships to sustain and expand this successful transition initiative.

What support do you need in the future?

- Oklahoma Family Network would benefit from continued collaboration and resource connection from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma to strengthen future Youth Expedition planning and expand access for youth and families.
- Technical assistance related to sustainable funding, supported employment, transition programming, and inclusive community partnerships would be helpful as the program continues to grow. Guidance on identifying additional funding opportunities or potential partners could help support participant scholarships, transportation, overnight accommodations, peer counselor training, and staffing needs.
- Connections to DDCO members, state agencies, self-advocates, family leaders, and organizations with expertise in employment, transportation, independent living, mental health, and disability services would also be valuable. These connections could help strengthen the resource network available to participating youth and families before, during, and after the Youth Expedition.
- Training or resources related to supporting youth with varied communication, sensory, behavioral, medical, and independence needs in an overnight setting would be beneficial for staff and peer counselors. Additional tools related to accessible communication, crisis prevention, positive behavior supports, and transition planning could further strengthen implementation.
- DDCO staff time to help share program information, highlight Youth Expedition outcomes, and connect the project with broader statewide transition and employment initiatives would also support continued success. Increased awareness of the Youth Expedition may help reach additional families, recruit peer counselors, and build future community partnerships.
- Continued partnership and feedback from the Council will help Oklahoma Family Network and Pervasive Parenting Center build on the success of this year's Youth Expedition while responding to the needs of youth and families across rural Oklahoma.

SOUTHEAST REGION YOUTH EXPEDITION 2026

Final Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Project Partners:	Oklahoma Family Network, Pervasive Parenting Center, Carl Albert State College
Event Dates:	June 3-6, 2026
Location:	Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Oklahoma
Theme:	Design a Better Tomorrow

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 provided a four-day transition and leadership experience for youth and young adults with disabilities ages 14-24 throughout Southeast Oklahoma. The event was funded through a $20,000 grant awarded by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, to Oklahoma Family Network and hosted by Pervasive Parenting Center in partnership with Carl Albert State College.

The camp focused on self-advocacy, independent living, financial literacy, life planning, leadership development, disability acceptance, social connection, and transition to adulthood. Campers participated in educational breakout sessions, recreational activities, leadership opportunities, peer mentoring, and residential living experiences while staying in college dormitories.

A total of 33 campers participated, including 30 overnight campers and 3 commuters. Participants represented 13 school districts across four counties in Southeast Oklahoma. Eight campers attended for the first time, while returning participants continued building leadership and self-advocacy skills. Five Spanish-speaking participants were supported through interpretation services to ensure full participation.

In addition to the youth camp, Oklahoma Family Network hosted parent training opportunities while Sooner Success facilitated a sibling camp serving children ages 6-12,

creating a comprehensive family-centered experience.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Campers: 33

Overnight Campers: 30

Commuters: 3

Gender Breakdown:

18 Male

14 Female

1 Non-Reported

Peer Counselors: 10

Staff: 7

Registered Nurse: 1

Volunteers: 11

Counties Represented: 4

School Districts Represented: 13

First-Time Attendees: 8

The camp also included an Alumni Track for former participants who had aged out of the traditional camp program, allowing continued engagement and leadership development.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Camp activities were held at the Hoffman/Wilson Center on the campus of Carl Albert State College. Overnight participants lived in campus dormitories, providing an authentic residential experience that encouraged independence, responsibility, and peer interaction. Campers were responsible for maintaining their dorm rooms and personal belongings throughout the week. Peer counselors provided support as needed while encouraging

participants to build independent living skills and confidence.

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a variety of educational and interactive learning experiences including:

- Self-Advocacy
- Goal Setting and Life Planning
- Financial Literacy
- Team Building
- Disability Acceptance
- Improv and Communication Skills
- The Game of Life (Life Skills Simulation)
- Telling Your Story
- Driving Under the Influence Awareness Program
- Leadership Development
- Social Skills Development

Featured Presenters Included:

Choctaw Nation

Karen Lyons presented a Driving Under the Influence awareness program utilizing impairment simulation goggles that allowed participants to experience firsthand the dangers of impaired driving.

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

Carley Dummitt facilitated an improv workshop designed to improve communication skills, confidence, problem-solving, and social interaction.

Sooner Success

Samantha Basave assisted with improv activities and facilitated the sibling camp.

Oklahoma Family Network

Representatives presented Telling Your Story and facilitated additional family engagement opportunities.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Duane and Danielle Howell served as keynote presenters during the closing day of camp. Their interactive presentation focused on transition challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and their families while providing practical information regarding available supports and services. They encouraged participants to embrace their individuality, advocate for themselves and recognize that differences should be viewed as strengths.

PEER COUNSELOR DEVELOPMENT

Peer counselors completed two days of leadership and training activities prior to camper arrival.

Training topics included:

- Disability Acceptance
- Autism and Behavior Supports
- Team Building
- Camp Expectations
- Breakout Session Facilitation
- Leadership Development

Peer counselors served as mentors, group leaders, role models, and support persons throughout the week.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participant evaluations demonstrated significant program success.

98% of participants reported increased knowledge as a result of camp participation.

96% reported the information presented was useful and relevant.

98% reported they planned to use the information learned to become more successful in their daily lives.

Participants consistently identified the social opportunities provided through camp as their favorite aspect of the experience. Campers reported enjoying opportunities to reconnect with friends, build new relationships, and spend time with peers who share similar experiences.

During the alumni panel discussion, former participants shared how Youth Expedition helped strengthen their self-advocacy skills and prepared them for greater success in adulthood.

Peer counselors also reported that participation had significantly impacted their lives by increasing their understanding of disability and helping them recognize the challenges many individuals with disabilities face daily.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The camp concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing participant growth and achievement.

Each camper received an individualized award presented by their peer counselor highlighting personal strengths, accomplishments, and contributions made throughout the week.

Additional recognitions included:

- Best Camper Award
- Peer Counselor of the Year (voted on by campers)

SIBLING CAMP

Sooner Success facilitated a sibling camp serving nine siblings ages 6-12.

Activities included therapeutic games, peer discussion, and educational opportunities designed to help siblings better understand disability while providing a safe environment to discuss their own experiences and challenges.

The sibling camp provided a unique opportunity for siblings to receive focused attention while connecting with others who share similar experiences.

OKLAHOMA FAMILY NETWORK PARENT COMPONENT

Number of Parents Participating:19 total

Parent Trainings Provided:

- Support Parent Training: 7 parents
- Resources Distributed:
    - 7 support parent binders
    - 7 OFN Rack Cards
    - 7 Pervasive Parenting handouts

Health Transition Training & Community Resource Training:

- Resources Distributed 12 OFN Rack Cards
    - 12 Pervasive Parenting handouts
    - The slides from the Community Resource & Health Transition slides

FAMILY IMPACT

In rural Oklahoma, families often face significant barriers when supporting a loved one with a disability. The Southeast Region Youth Expedition addresses these challenges through a comprehensive approach that serves the entire family.

The camp provides youth with training focused on life goals, self-advocacy, leadership, and independent living while helping them envision a better future in their communities. At the

same time, parents gain access to training, resources, and networking opportunities that strengthen their ability to support their children.

When combined with the sibling camp component, the result is a full-family experience made possible through strong partnerships across Oklahoma.

CONCLUSION

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 successfully provided meaningful transition education, leadership development, social connection, and independent living experiences for youth and young adults with disabilities throughout Southeast Oklahoma. Through collaboration among Oklahoma Family Network, Pervasive Parenting Center, Carl Albert State College, Sooner Success, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation, and numerous volunteers, participants gained valuable skills, increased confidence, expanded social networks, and strengthened their ability to advocate for themselves and pursue their goals.

The support of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma made this opportunity possible and continues to have a lasting impact on youth, families, and communities across Southeast Oklahoma.

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Finance Committee Financial Report
For the Month Ended June 30, 2026

Lori Wieder, Finance Committee Chair

Susan Rutledge, DDCO Parliamentarian
Jacob Pyle - DDCO Secretary
Margaret Bond, DDCO Vice Chair

Janie Fugitt, ATO Chair
Kodey Toney, DDCO Chair
Bryce Wooten, State Plan Chair

Finance Committee Reports
Expenditures & Funding - Page 1
Federal Grant Reconciliation - Page 2

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma - Expenditures & Funding SFY26 - Through June 30, 2026

	2025						2026						Total
	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
MONTHLY EXPENDITURES													
State Fund Year 2024	$ 2,709.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,709.00
State Fund Year 2025	102,000.00	20,071.00	5,122.00	18,674.00	3,023.00	27,425.00	140.00	276.00	384.00	133.00	21.00	1.00	177,270.00
State Fund Year 2026	6,365.00	46,588.00	44,386.00	40,923.00	125,129.00	50,383.00	59,887.00	45,748.00	61,296.00	50,722.00	75,403.00	(226,037.00)	380,793.00
Total Direct Expenditures	$ 111,074.00	$ 66,659.00	$ 49,508.00	$ 59,597.00	$128,152.00	$ 77,808.00	$ 60,027.00	$ 46,024.00	$ 61,680.00	$ 50,855.00	$ 75,424.00	$(226,036.00)	$ 560,772.00
Allocated, Rent, Postage, Etc.	7,992.00	9,016.00	8,945.00	7,899.00	8,322.00	14,074.00	10,744.00	7,482.00	7,663.00	9,106.00	7,342.00	(18,578.00)	80,007.00
Total Expenditures	$ 119,066.00	$ 75,675.00	$ 58,453.00	$ 67,496.00	$136,474.00	$ 91,882.00	$ 70,771.00	$ 53,506.00	$ 69,343.00	$ 59,961.00	$ 82,766.00	$(244,614.00)	$ 640,779.00
											12 Month Average Expenditures		53,398.25
FUNDING SOURCES											Annualized Expenditures		640,779.00
FFY-24 Federal Grant	$ 80,656.00	$ 24,536.00	$ 17,401.00	$ 14,949.85	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 137,542.85
FFY-25 Federal Grant	32,337.63	43,972.88	34,819.13	9,392.15	100,323.00	57,311.25	18,268.00	17,120.00	29,239.00	23,163.00	48,835.00	69,886.00	484,667.03
FFY-26 Federal Grant	-	-	-	35,374.38	30,316.25	27,136.10	44,561.75	30,782.38	34,347.25	30,569.00	28,595.38	(280,470.88)	(18,788.40)
Total Federal Grants	$ 112,993.63	$ 68,508.88	$ 52,220.13	$ 59,716.38	$130,639.25	$ 84,447.35	$ 62,829.75	$ 47,902.38	$ 63,586.25	$ 53,732.00	$ 77,430.38	$(210,584.88)	$ 603,421.48
State Funding	$ 6,072.38	$ 7,166.13	$ 6,232.88	$ 7,779.63	$ 5,834.75	$ 7,434.65	$ 7,941.25	$ 5,603.63	$ 5,756.75	$ 6,229.00	$ 5,335.63	$ (34,029.13)	$ 37,357.53
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	$ 119,066.00	$ 75,675.00	$ 58,453.00	$ 67,496.00	$136,474.00	$ 91,882.00	$ 70,771.00	$ 53,506.00	$ 69,343.00	$ 59,961.00	$ 82,766.00	$(244,614.00)	$ 640,779.00

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma - Federal Grant Reconciliation

For the Period Ended June 30, 2026

	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26	Total
Grant Award	$ 914,702.00	$ 912,522.00	$ 906,458.00	$ 2,733,682.00
Expenditures				
EOM October 2023	$ 32,675.25	$ -	$ -	$ 32,675.25
EOM November 2023	36,505.13	-	-	36,505.13
EOM December 2023	29,633.03	-	-	29,633.03
Adjust for Reconciliation	(0.01)	-	-	(0.01)
EOM January 2024	39,697.50	-	-	39,697.50
EOM February 2024	31,788.38	-	-	31,788.38
EOM March 2024	42,242.81	-	-	42,242.81
EOM April 2024	33,693.75	-	-	33,693.75
EOM May 2024	28,826.62	-	-	28,826.62
EOM June 2024	24,897.51	-	-	24,897.51
EOM July 2024	27,502.14	-	-	27,502.14
EOM August 2024	42,127.75	-	-	42,127.75
EOM September 2024	37,434.26	-	-	37,434.26
EOM October 2024	-	31,705.38	-	31,705.38
EOM November 2024	89,188.00	45,880.25	-	135,068.25
EOM December 2024	51,287.00	26,597.50	-	77,884.50
EOM January 2025	35,122.00	43,885.75	-	79,007.75
EOM February 2025	34,491.00	29,976.00	-	64,467.00
EOM March 2025	28,400.00	27,072.00	-	55,472.00
EOM April 2025	33,340.00	31,258.75	-	64,598.75
EOM May 2025	41,163.00	30,479.63	-	71,642.63
EOM June 2025	57,144.00	34,823.38	-	91,967.38
EOM July 2025	80,656.00	32,337.63	-	112,993.63
EOM August 2025	24,536.00	43,972.88	-	68,508.88
EOM September 2025	17,401.00	34,819.13	-	52,220.13
EOM October 2025	14,949.85	9,392.15	35,374.38	59,716.38
EOM October 2025 - Adjustment	0.03	-	-	0.03
EOM November 2025	-	100,323.00	30,316.25	130,639.25
EOM December 2025	-	57,311.25	27,136.10	84,447.35
EOM January 2026	-	18,268.00	44,561.75	62,829.75
EOM February 2026	-	17,120.00	30,782.38	47,902.38
EOM March 2026	-	29,239.00	34,347.25	63,586.25
EOM April 2026	-	23,163.00	30,569.00	53,732.00
EOM May 2026	-	48,835.00	28,595.38	77,430.38
EOM June 2026	-	69,886.00	(280,470.88)	(210,584.88)
Total Expenditures	$ 914,702.00	$ 786,345.66	$ (18,788.40)	$ 1,682,259.26
Grant Balance	**$ -**	**$ 126,176.35**	**$ 925,246.40**	**$ 1,051,422.75**

** ® Denotes Reconciled with OKDHS Finance CARE UNIT*

Partners in Policymaking, Youth Leadership Forum, and other Advocacy Development Impact Report

Fy 2027 Progress Update as of August 20, 2026

State Plan Alignment

Goal 2: Advocacy and Awareness – Support the creation of community activities that value Oklahomans with intellectual developmental disabilities and support them in speaking up and making their own decisions.

Objective 2: Annually through 2031, provide formalized training for 150 emerging self-advocates and their family members.

Objective 3: By 2029, an alumni network will be established for graduates of our leadership programs.

Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

🗓️ The 2027 Oklahoma YLF is tentatively scheduled for June 8-12, 2027

Partners in Policymaking (PIP)

🗣️ 28 interviews, 26 students seated for 2026-2027 PIP Class

🗓️ 2026-2027 Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking dates:

- Weekend 1 – August 28-29, 2026
- Weekend 2 – Oct 2-3, 2026
- Weekend 3 – Nov 6-7, 2026
- Weekend 4 – Jan 8-9, 2026

- Weekend 5 – Feb 5-6, 2027
- Weekend 6 – Mar 5-6, 2027
- Weekend 7 – Apr 9-10, 2027

- Weekend 8 – To be determined (for PIP Graduate Academy)

PIP Weekends will be held at the Oklahoma History Center

2026 Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking Graduate Alumni

Thursday, August 6, 2026- Virtual meeting – Set up by 2 PIP Alumni using a PIP Alumni Zoom. Approximately 15 in attendance.

Other Advocacy Updates

🗣️ Speaking proposals submitted for:

🗓️ Oklahoma Transition Institute

Self-Advocacy Trainings Impact Report

Fy 2027 Progress Update (July 1 - Oct 22, 2026)

State Plan Alignment

Goal 2: Advocacy and Awareness. Support the creation of community activities that value Oklahomans with intellectual developmental disabilities and support them in speaking up and making their own decisions.

Objective 4: Annually through 2031, Self-Advocate trainers will create and provide training to 150 self-advocates, local businesses, schools, and organizations.

FY27 Impact Highlights and Progress towards Objective 4

👥 **24 self-advocates trained**. People gained knowledge and improved skills to advocate for themselves and participate more fully in their communities.

🤝 **3 Family members trained.** People gained knowledge and improved skills to advocate for themselves or loved ones and participate more fully in their communities.

🤝 **101 Professionals trained**. This expands support networks and increases the awareness of disability related resources and best practices from subject matter experts.

📚 **18** Trainings delivered. These are the curriculum trainings developed by self-advocates and delivered to an audience. They provide tools and information for self-advocates, families, and professionals.

🗓️ **15** Working sessions completed. These working sessions support the subject matter expert trainers who deliver the developed curriculum.

Participant Voices

The impact of the trainings is best heard from past participants of the trainings:

Survey question prompt: The best part of the training is being able to:

- "I enjoyed listening to Jan's lived experiences. She is around 70 years old and has lived long enough to see things evolve over time. I also enjoyed Morgan's teachings."
- "Discussing disability culture and Olmstead's law."
- "Listen to their stories."
- "Meeting new people."

Upcoming Trainings

Taking Control of Your Health, part 2 (virtual)

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
Jan-June 2027 Committee & Council Meetings

2027 STATE FISCAL YEAR - QUARTER 3

Date	Time	Committee
JANUARY		
Fri., Jan. 29	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Finance Cmte
Fri., Jan. 29	11:15 - 11:45 AM	Executive Cmte
Fri., Jan. 29	12:00 - 3:00 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
FEBRUARY		
Fri., Feb. 19	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Feb. 19	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Feb. 19	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
MARCH		
Mar. 19 / Apr. 2	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Mar. 19 / Apr. 2	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Mar. 19 / Apr. 2	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

2027 STATE FISCAL YEAR - QUARTER 4

APRIL		
Fri., Apr 30	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Finance Cmte
Fri., Apr 30	11:15 - 11:45 AM	Executive Cmte
Fri., Apr 30	12:00 - 3:00 PM	DD Council Board Mtg: Budget Mtg
MAY		
Fri., May 21	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., May 21	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., May 21	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
JUNE		
Fri., June 25	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., June 25	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., June 25	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
July - Dec 2027 Committee & Council Meetings

	Date	Time	Committee
2028 STATE FISCAL YEAR - QUARTER 1	JULY		
	Fri., July 30	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Finance Cmte
	Fri., July 30	11:15 - 11:45 AM	Executive Cmte
	Fri., July 30	12:00 - 3:00 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
	AUGUST		
	Fri., Aug. 27	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
	Fri., Aug. 27	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
	Fri., Aug. 27	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
	SEPTEMBER		
	Fri., Sept. 24	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
	Fri., Sept. 24	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
	Fri., Sept. 24	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
2028 STATE FISCAL YEAR - QUARTER 2	OCTOBER		
	Fri., Oct. 22	10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Finance Cmte
	Fri., Oct. 22	11:15 - 11:45 AM	Executive Cmte
	Fri., Oct. 22	12:00 - 3:00 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
	NOVEMBER		
	Fri., Nov. 5	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	State Plan Cmte
	Fri., Nov. 5	12:15 - 1:15 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
	Fri., Nov. 12	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	State Plan Cmte
	Fri., Nov. 12	12:15 - 1:15 PM	Executive Cmte
	DECEMBER		
	Fri., Dec. 3	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	State Plan Cmte
	Fri., Dec. 3	12:15 - 1:15 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
	Fri., Dec. 3	1:30 - 2:30 PM	Executive Cmte

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Re: NDSC receipts

From Katerina Alder <katerina.alder@yahoo.com>
Date Mon 7/27/2026 7:07 PM
To Jenifer Randle <Jenifer.Randle@okdhs.org>

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving my family the opportunity to attend the NDSC Convention. This was our first time attending the convention, and it was also the first time my daughter, Amelia, was old enough to participate in the Youth & Adult Conference. I am incredibly grateful that we had this opportunity to learn, connect with other families, discover new resources, and become even better prepared to support Amelia as she grows into adulthood.

One of the most valuable sessions I attended was the Global Roundtable. I was especially interested in the research presented on weight management in adolescents with Down syndrome and strategies for supporting health across the lifespan. The information was practical and directly relevant to our family. I appreciated the opportunity to continue learning after the conference as well, and I submitted additional questions through the follow-up survey I received.

The Exhibit Hall was another tremendous benefit of attending the convention. I connected with organizations and programs whose information and resources I plan to continue exploring, including First Then Next, Nathaniel's Hope, HEROES, Think College, and others. Having so many organizations in one place gave me access to resources related to education, transition planning, independence, inclusion, and future opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome.

The session that was most beneficial to me personally was “Their Tomorrow Starts with Our Choices Today” by Jennie Dopp. I learned about the Seven Foundations of Disability Planning and came home with concrete ideas for preparing for Amelia's future. I have already made it a personal goal to begin working through these foundations in August. This is a wonderful example of how the scholarship provided more than an opportunity to attend a conference—it gave our family knowledge that will influence decisions we make for years to come.

Two other sessions that particularly stood out were “Down Syndrome and the Effects on Feet and Body” by Dr. Riley, whom I was also able to meet through the Exhibit Hall, and “The Science of Care: Translating Research into Meaningful Support for People with Down Syndrome.” Both helped me better understand how research and specialized knowledge can be translated into practical support for Amelia's health, development, and quality of life.

Most importantly, the convention was meaningful for Amelia herself. She loved the Youth Conference Kick-Off Party, made new friends, learned about college opportunities, and learned more about becoming a self-advocate. As her mother, it was wonderful to see her participating in a conference that was not simply about people with Down syndrome, but one that actively included and empowered individuals with Down syndrome. At 15,

these experiences are especially important as Amelia begins thinking about high school, college, independence, and her future.

We returned home with new knowledge, new connections, practical resources, and many ideas that I hope to use not only for Amelia but also in my advocacy and work supporting other families in our community.

Thank you for making this experience possible for our family. Your scholarship was truly an investment in Amelia's future and in our ability as a family to support her as she continues to learn, grow, advocate for herself, and pursue her goals. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support.

Katerina Alder

On Monday, July 27, 2026 at 06:46:10 PM CDT, Katerina Alder <katerina.alder@yahoo.com> wrote:

On Monday, July 27, 2026 at 02:58:25 PM CDT, Katerina Alder <katerina.alder@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Jennifer,

I hope you’re doing well!

Thank you so much for supporting our family and helping make our trip to the NDSC Convention possible. It was an amazing and beneficial experience for all of us, especially Amelia.

Since Amelia just turned 15, this was her first year attending the Youth & Adults Conference, which made the experience particularly exciting for her. It was also our family’s first time attending an NDSC convention, and we are incredibly grateful that we had this opportunity. I already started sharing all the information with our DS community.

Please find our receipts attached. If you also need copies of our flight expenses, I would be happy to send those as well. Also, I had to pay for Amelia's checked in bag with Southwest. I only have the receipt for the Tulsa-Orlando flight, but I highlighted the two $35 charges from the bank statement.

Thank you again for your support of Amelia and our family. We truly appreciate it!

Have a wonderful week!

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Five-Year State Plan 2027-2031

Goal 1 – Making Information Easy to Find and Use- Make it easier for Oklahomans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families to find and understand information about services, supports, resources.	
Objective 1	By 2031, establish a user-friendly digital and in-person network of information that reaches at least 2,000 Oklahomans with I/DD and/or their families and maintain active partnerships with at least 20 aging and disability organizations across Oklahoma.
Objective 2	Annually through 2031, support creative community solutions that provide in-person help, reaching at least 250 Oklahomans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families through their lifespan each year.
Objective 3	By 2029, improve transportation access and options for Oklahomans with I/DD by establishing one statewide mobility management program and providing transportation resource education and coordination to at least 75 persons with disabilities and/or their families and 25 providers.
Objective 4	Annually through 2031, offer at least 20 specialized training workshops for caregivers on topics such as person-centered planning, behavioral support strategies, and navigating service systems.

Expected Outcomes:

- To enhance accessibility to services, support, and transportation for Oklahomans with I/DD and their families.
- People and families will report a decrease in the difficulty of navigating service systems.
- Communities will have equal access to services and supports.
- Communication between agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities will be improved.

Goal 2 –Advocacy and Awareness- Support the creation of community activities that value Oklahomans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and support them in speaking up and making their own decisions.	
Objective 1	Annually through 2031, launch and evaluate public education campaigns that feature at least 10 Oklahomans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the workforce, arts, and community.
Objective 2	Annually through 2031, provide formalized training for 150 emerging self-advocates and their family members.
Objective 3	By 2029, establish and maintain an active alumni network for graduates of Council leadership programs, resulting in an updated alumni directory, annual networking meetings, and at least 50 program graduates actively engaged in ongoing leadership and advocacy support.
Objective 4	Annually through 2031, support Oklahoma's statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with I/DD, and provide formalized training to 100 self-advocates, 5 local businesses and/or organizations through self-advocate trainers.
Objective 5	By 2031, establish and convene a statewide cross-disability coalition to guide state-level policy discussions with at least 50% of its members being people with developmental disabilities meeting at least four times per year to review and inform of policy.
Objective 6	By 2030, a toolkit will be developed to assist businesses and organizations in creating more inclusive environments for employees and customers.

Expected Outcomes:

- To develop leadership skills, public awareness, and organizational readiness.
- Positive attitudes and public awareness towards people with developmental disabilities will measurably increase across Oklahoma.
- Self-advocates and family advocates will be prepared to take on leadership roles.
- Decision-making bodies at the state and local levels will be more inclusive, with greater representation from the disability community.
- All Council Leadership programs will have stronger alumni networks and greater community impact.

Goal 3 – Supporting Families and Caregivers Over Time. Provide caregivers and families with the support needed to ensure their long-term well-being.	
Objective 1	Annually, through 2031, support creative community solutions that provide respite and training, reaching at least 100 family caregivers each year.
Objective 2	In the event of natural and/or manmade disasters, the Council may engage in additional activities to support Oklahomans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthening family well-being through community supports.
- Caregivers will report feeling more prepared and supported, leading to a reduction in caregiver fatigue and stress.
- Families will have increased access to respite services and peer-to-peer support networks.

Good Life Impact from our goals:

People with developmental disabilities and their families have the supports, relationships, opportunities, and self-determination needed to:

🏠 Live where they choose

📚 Learn throughout life

💼 Work and contribute

🎨 Participate and belong in community life

❤️ Build meaningful relationships

🧭 Direct their own lives