

Abstract: Advancing equitable, person-centered care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) requires a clear alignment between core IDD concepts and nursing standards. This project builds on established competencies by integrating fourteen key concepts—including advocacy, autonomy, cultural competency, and systemic change—within the framework of the American Nurses Association (ANA) Standards of Practice. A consensus-driven coding process guides this integration, bridging the language of IDD legislation, policy, and community advocacy with professional nursing frameworks. The resulting conceptual model enhances the foundation for embedding IDD-informed approaches into nursing practice, education, and policy. By establishing this theoretical groundwork, the project supports future efforts to translate these competencies into practical strategies across healthcare systems.

Plain language Summary: Providing quality care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) requires that nurses understand how key concepts like advocacy, inclusion, and cultural competency relate to their daily work. This project aligns these important ideas with nursing standards to guide more effective, person-centered care. By building this foundation, we create space for future projects that will offer practical tools to support inclusive healthcare.