

# ASCEND

**A**dvancing **S**afety and **C**ommunity **E**ngagement through **N**avigated **D**ialogue

- 1** **Adopt the social model of disability in state training and policy** so disability is seen as a natural part of human diversity.
- 2** **Create a statewide pathway to advocacy** so every person, no matter where they live, can learn their rights and speak up safely.
- 3** **Set minimum training standards** for all frontline workers including DSPs, in-home support workers, service coordinators, police, firefighters, EMTs, teachers, and others who support people.
- 4** **Require plain language information** about rights, safety, and reporting abuse. It must be easy to understand and available in many languages and formats.
- 5** **Invest in the workforce** with fair wages, paid onboarding, ongoing training, and real career paths that help people stay in the field.
- 6** **Guarantee seats at decision-making tables** for people with disabilities and their families. Nothing about us without us.
- 7** **Fund community outreach efforts** to connect people who are isolated and do not know how to find help.
- 8** **Strengthen reporting systems** so people can report abuse or concerns without fear, and so responses are quick and accountable.
- 9** **Support community healing events** such as vigils, town halls, and listening sessions where people can speak, grieve, and be heard.
- 10** **Promote connection as protection** by teaching that people are safer when they belong to a community, have real relationships, and know their worth.