



The LINC Lowdown

January 2026



From the Director

Jeremy Maxand

Welcome to The LINC Lowdown

I am excited to welcome you to the first edition of The LINC Lowdown, our new newsletter designed to keep you connected with the work of the Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) and the broader independent living movement here in Idaho.

This newsletter is about more than updates and announcements—it is about strengthening community. At a time when our country feels divided and uncertain, community is what holds us together. For people with disabilities, community means more than belonging; it is the foundation for independence, resilience, and opportunity.

Independent living is not simply a philosophy—it is a commitment to ensuring that every person has the freedom to direct their own life, make their own choices, and fully participate in their community. That work feels especially urgent today. Across the country, we are reminded daily of how fragile independence can be when systems, policies, or social barriers stand in the way.

Through The LINC Lowdown, we will share stories of Idahoans living independently, highlight resources and programs that expand opportunity, and offer insights into the advocacy and systems change efforts shaping our future. My hope is that this newsletter helps us build stronger connections, deepen our shared commitment, and remind us that we are not alone in this work.

Thank you for being part of our community. Together we can continue

Thank you for being part of our community. Together, we can continue to ensure that independence, dignity, and community remain at the heart of what it means to live in Idaho today.

Celebrating Value and Talent

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Taking a Chance on Independence Madonna's Story



Click here to read [Madonna's Story](#).



Operation Advocacy 2026: Turning Frustration Into Action — Together

Idaho is facing major decisions in 2026 that will shape the future of healthcare, education, mental health, disability services, and community supports across the state. For many Idahoans, the pace of policy changes has created frustration, uncertainty, and a feeling of being left out of the process.

Ready to learn more or get involved?

Visit <https://www.lincidaho.org/operation-advocacy> or call LINC at 208-336-3335 and ask to speak to an Independent Living Specialist.



What's Up YTP?

Your monthly scoop on all things youth.

Welcome to the first edition of What's Up YTP?—your place to stay connected to everything happening in Youth Transition Programming (youth with disabilities, ages 14-26) at LINC. If you're building skills, exploring jobs, or just looking for community, we've got you.

NEW: Cluster Club — a chill, creative, judgment-free space where you get to explore what you want for your future, at your pace, and in your style.

This isn't another classroom, worksheet, or sit-down lecture. Cluster Club is built with you, not for you — and it's all about giving you room to think, try things out, ask questions, and have real conversations with people who actually listen.

Real-life. Hands-on. Not boring.

- Checking out career clusters through activities, challenges, and “try-it-out” moments that help you figure out what feels right (and what doesn't.)
- Building the life skills nobody teaches you — from speaking up for what you need to problem-solving on the fly — all woven into things you'll actually use.
- Taking control of your next steps without pressure, grades, or deadlines. Just support, ideas, and a team that helps you find your own lane.
- Connecting with a solid group of peers who are figuring it out just like you — plus a facilitator who's there to listen, not to lecture.

Because your transition years deserve more than the same old “college and career talk.”

Text Sam for more info: 208-844-8338

Check the website for socials: <https://www.lincidaho.org/youth-transitions>

Mark Your Calendars!

Please click on the event title for more information:

Jan 6, 5pm - [Gather, Gab and Grow](#) (Twin Falls)

Jan 8, 5pm - [YTP Cluster Club](#) (Boise)

Jan 14 - [Operation Advocacy](#) (Caldwell)

Jan 15, 5pm - [YTP Cluster Club](#) (Boise)

Jan 19, MLK Day, all LINC offices closed

Jan 20, 6pm - [YTP Taco Tuesday](#) (Boise)

Jan 21 - [Operation Advocacy](#) (Twin Falls)

Jan 28 - [Operation Advocacy](#) (Boise)

Jan 30, 6pm - [YTP Not-Your-Average](#) New Year's Party:
Area 2026 (Boise)

Feb 4 - [Fred Riggers Disability Awareness Day](#), Idaho
State Capitol



Thank You!

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