

Request for Applications

Issued by:

NEBRASKA PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Health and Human Services

301 Centennial Mall South, 220 Building

P.O. Box 95026

Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

For Hand Delivery correct address is:

220 South 17th Street

Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone: 402-471-2330 Fax: 402-471-0180

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An application packet must be obtained by contacting the Council Office at 402-471-2330 or mary.gordon@nebraska.gov

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announced on June 6th, 2012 the availability of funds for the State Plan goal in the area of quality assurance by increasing the skills of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families so they can be more active participants in their educational and/or service planning. The project would begin October 1, 2012. Applications are due by July 27, 2012. Money is available to fund one project a maximum of \$40,000 for one year. Funding for this project comes from federal monies awarded the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, through the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act. Eligible applicants are profit and nonprofit entities, faith-based organizations, state agencies, institutions of higher education, or local subdivisions of government. Applicants will be expected to provide 30% match of the total project costs.

Developmental Disability Definition

The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (a) self-care; (b) receptive and expressive language; (c) learning; (d) mobility; (e) self-direction; (f) capacity for independent living; and (g) economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of

assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;

- An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more functional limitations in major life activities, if the individual, without services and supports has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

Time Frame

October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

Amount of Funds

The Council has set aside \$40,000 to fund one project in the above stated goal area for one year. Two additional years of funding may be available. In order to receive continuation funding, the grantee must demonstrate appropriate activities in the previous year and must submit an application to be approved by members of the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities for the following year.

Reports and Delivery Dates

1. Grantee shall commence work on this project October 1, 2012.
2. Grantee and the Department of Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Planning Council staff will communicate as needed but with a minimum of contact every three months.
3. Progress reports will be due to the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council staff two weeks following the end of each quarter (January 15, 2013, April 15, 2013, July 15, 2013 and October 15, 2013). A final report will be due 30 days after the end of the grant year.

Additional Requirements

1. Interested agencies must request an application packet by contacting the Council Office at 402-471-2330. Applicant must follow the application instructions provided in the packet.
2. Submitted applications must include signed cover sheet and the Department of Health and Human Services Subgrant Terms and Assurances. Please note that by submitting and signing the application, the applicant agrees that if a subgrant is awarded, it will operate the program as described in the Subgrant Application for funding in accordance with the Subgrant Terms and Assurances. The individual signing these documents must be authorized to legally bind the applicant.
3. This document, together with the approved proposal of the grantee and the letter of award, shall constitute the entire agreement between DHHS and the grantee.
4. Proposals are due no later than **5:00 PM, Friday, July 27, 2012** to:

**Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities
Department of Health and Human Services
301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Goal: To support quality services across the lifespan based on the needs and decisions made by persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Objective: To increase the skills of individuals, both children and adults, with developmental disabilities and their families so they can more easily express meaningful choice and self-determination when participating in Individual Education Planning or Individuals Program Planning.

Focus: The grant would focus on teaching both children and adults with disabilities as well as their families/guardians skills so they truly have the opportunity to make choices and direct their own lives. This information would be important in all aspects of their lives but for purposes of this grant, it would begin with the education/service planning meetings that provide the basis for service delivery in many people's lives.

Intent: It is the intent of the Council to fund one entity to provide training for individuals with disabilities, both children and adults, and their families/guardians on expressing meaningful choice and control over their lives and services during education/service planning meetings. Although there have been efforts to implement person-centered planning models into both the IEP (Individual Education Plans) and IPP (Individual Program Plan), individuals and families continue to report feelings that they have little input into their plans. They are unsure how to express their choices or speak up if they do not agree with what is proposed. The grant should focus on teaching skills including those needed to feel comfortable expressing their preferences, asking questions if they do not understand, and stating either their agreement or objection to goals that will be included in the plans. The training should not be on the IEP/IPP process itself but rather on those soft skills needed to actively participate in the process and give meaningful input. It may include skills to help them learn how to identify and engage those professionals on their teams who are willing to listen to them and support their choices. The grant is for one year but two additional years may be available.

Applications should include:

- Description of topics to be included in training
- Description of how participants will be recruited
- Description of how training will be delivered
- Description of how many individuals and families/guardians will receive the training.