

Request for Applications

Issued by:

NEBRASKA PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Department of Health and Human Services
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The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announces the availability of funds for Opportunity Subaward projects. Opportunity Subaward funds are intended to support smaller, innovative projects that do not meet the more formalized request for applications that the Council releases each year. In order to encourage smaller entities to apply, the application process is simplified. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Council office for assistance. Funding for these projects 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.

Qualifications and Guidelines

Opportunity Subaward projects are funded for only one year. Projects should be focused on improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The federal definition of developmental disability is included for your reference. Opportunity Subaward projects must address one of the four goals in the Council's 2017-2021 State Plan. Applicants should justify how their project supports inclusion and self-direction, as well as how the project can be sustained beyond the one year subaward period.

Council Goals

Projects must address one of the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1. Improve transition across the lifespan of more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities and their families.

Objective A. An increased number of individuals transitioning out of special education and their families will be provided with information to expand their knowledge of adult services and other community resources for adult living.

Objective B. An increased number of adults with I/DD and their aging families will be identified through outreach activities and provided with information to expand their knowledge of adult services and other community resources.

Objective C. An increased number of individuals with I/DD and their families will be provided with information to expand their knowledge and acquire skills for developing self-directed, person-centered plans.

Goal 2. Improve advocacy, self-advocacy, and self-determination for more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities and their families.

Objective A. Strengthen support for an increased number of self-advocates through leadership development and coalition participation by:

1. Supplying direct funding to People First of Nebraska for advocacy activities.
2. Supporting opportunities for individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.
3. Supporting participation of self-advocates in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.
4. Supporting the development of a curriculum to be used statewide for the development of self-advocacy and self-determination skills.

Objective B. Advocate for positive systems change impacting the lives and health of individuals with I/DD of diverse identities and their families through active participation in: statewide advisory committees and cross-disability workgroups; public policy advocacy; cross-systems dialogue; and DD Network collaboration.

Goal 3. Influence systems change to provide increased opportunities for more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities to pursue an employment path of their choice.

Objective A. Provide support to address barriers, advocate for, and expand opportunities for an increased number of individuals to participate in community integrated employment or entrepreneurship.

Objective B. Increase opportunities for self-advocates to share employment experiences and promote community integrated employment and entrepreneurship with peers and stakeholders.

Objective C. Provide access to benefits planning services for an increased number of service providers, individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families to support the person's employment choices.

Goal 4. Increase community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities.

Objective A. Increase opportunities for community inclusion for individuals with I/DD.

Objective B. Expand and enhance respite care services throughout the state.

Objective C. Expand and enhance inclusive childcare opportunities throughout the state.

Definitions

Diverse Identities refers to people of various races, cultural and ethnic heritages, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, and religions from diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds.

Community Integrated Employment refers to working for a competitive wage in a community-based job (i.e., a job that is not based in a sheltered workshop) at 20 hours a week or more. The employment must be in a work setting where, to the greatest extent possible, the employment typically involves interaction with co-workers and business associates who do not have disabilities and/or the general public. Integrated employment includes employment located in community businesses, self-employment, and ownership of microenterprises.

Benefits Planning: Complex disability benefit regulations have made it difficult for individuals with disabilities to enter the workforce while still maintaining essential healthcare coverage and disability benefits. Benefits planning services help individuals with disabilities develop an individualized plan to reach self-sufficiency through full use of state and federal work incentive programs. Benefits planning services investigate how changes in employment, earnings, marital status, or other circumstances may affect an individual's health coverage and benefits.

Community Inclusion refers to areas such as: where an individual lives, works, or goes to school; relationships; pursuit of personal interests; meeting spiritual needs; learning and personal growth; physical and emotional health; self-direction; and exercising rights, roles and responsibilities as a citizen.

Federal Definition of Developmental Disability

The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual who:

- 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.

Subaward Funds and Match

Opportunity Subawards are available twice a year. Projects can be funded for a minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000. Applicants are required to provide a 25% match of the funds requested. The match can be either cash or in-kind. Cash match is support provided to a project by an agency that they would have to pay for. Examples include part of someone's salary, rental space, or postage. In-kind match is donated time or items such as volunteer time or copying provided by a business. Federal dollars cannot be used as a match.

Council subaward funds **cannot** be used for the following:

- To purchase equipment, including computers;
- Ongoing operating expenses;
- Construction or renovation costs;
- Direct services for people with developmental disabilities (unless these services are part of a model demonstration);
- The purchase of equipment to support entrepreneurship or given to launch a small business.

Timeline

The subaward cycle begins on October 1, 2016 and ends on September 30, 2017.

Reports and Delivery Dates

- Subrecipient shall commence work on this project no earlier than October 1, 2016.
- Subrecipient and the Department of Health and Human Services Nebraska Planning Council staff will communicate throughout the subaward cycle.
- Progress reports will be due to the Council staff two weeks following the mid-year point (April 15, 2017) and at the end of the subaward year (October 15, 2017). A final report will be due 30 days after the end of the subaward year.

Application Requirements

Applicants must use the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities Application for Opportunity Subawards format. This format is available on the Council's website. Applications are limited to the following. The Council will not consider additional pages.

- Five pages of narrative;
- The included budget form;
- One page for the budget justification;
- Letters of commitment/support from any partners that are part of the project.
- For ease of reading, please use a font size no smaller than 11 point.

Submitted applications must include the signed Cover Sheet and the Department of Health and Human Services Subaward Terms and Assurances. Please note that by submitting and signing the application, the applicant agrees that if funding is awarded, the program will be operated as described in the Subaward application for funding in accordance with the Subaward Terms and Assurances. The individual signing these documents must be authorized to legally bind the applicant.

This document, together with the approved proposal of the Subrecipient, the Subaward Terms and Assurances, the Program Specific Requirements, and the letter of award which includes the amount, award period, and any contingencies shall constitute the entire agreement between DHHS and the Subrecipient.

Applications are due in the Council office by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 27, 2016**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Applications can be mailed, hand-delivered, or e-mailed in Word format. It is the applicant's responsibility to check to see if the Council office received the application.

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