NEBRASKA PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

For Hand Delivery Correct Address is:
220 South 17th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1811

Phone: 402-471-2330
Executive Director: Mary Gordon
mary.gordon@nebraska.gov
www.dhhs.ne.gov/ddplanning

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announces the availability of funds for Opportunity Grant projects. Opportunity Grant 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. Funds for these projects are provided by the Council, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, through the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Qualification and Guidelines

Opportunity Grant projects are funded for only one year. Projects should be focused on improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. A definition of developmental disability is included for your reference. Opportunity Grant projects must address one of the five goals in the Council's 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 grant period.

Council Goals

Projects must address one of the following goals:

- To support communication and personal relationships in communities between children and adults with and without developmental disabilities in order to increase inclusion.
- To increase the employment of individuals with developmental disabilities working in integrated settings and earning at least minimum wage.
- To support quality services across the lifespan based on the needs and decisions made by persons with developmental disabilities and their families.
- To increase quality assurance by supporting self-advocacy to become a valuable resource and increasing its visibility to policymakers.
- To improve the health of individuals with developmental disabilities by expanding access to health care and insuring inclusive public health services.

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.

Community Support
The Council is mandated by federal law with assuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are integrated and included in all facets of community life. The extent that a grant application promotes full participation of the target population in the same activities of community life, recreation, employment and education being utilized by other community members goes into the decision process. Inclusion of the larger community in the planning and implementation of the project proposal is important to enhance awareness and the expectation of success. Council grants are awarded for one year, and grant applications must show sustainability when the Council no longer funds the project. Grant applicants can increase the likelihood that projects will be sustained by including local community service groups, businesses, public education and local government entities in their development. Community inclusion factors are taken into consideration when Council members review applications.

Grant Funds and Match
Opportunity Grants 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 total project funds (This can be figured by taking the amount of money you are requesting and multiplying it by 1/3 since it is a three to one match.) 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.

DD grant 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).

Timeline
Projects will be expected to begin October 1, 2014 and must be completed by September 30, 2015.

Application Requirements
Applicants must use the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities Application for Opportunity Grants format. This format is available on the Council's website. Applications are limited to five pages of narrative, the included budget form, one page for the budget justification, and letters of commitment/support from partners, if any, that are part of the project. The Council will not consider additional pages. Font size no smaller than 11 point.

Applications are due in the DD Council Office by **Friday, July 25, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.** Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. 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. The Council's contact information can be found at the beginning of this announcement.

Successful applicants will be asked to sign a set of terms and assurances that are necessary for the distribution of federal funds. In addition, they will be required to conduct a standardized consumer satisfaction survey for their grant activities and report the results to the Council office.