

Request for Applications
Issued by:
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: Kristen Larsen
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www.dhhs.ne.gov/ddplanning

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

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities (the Council) announced on June 19, 2015 the availability of funds for its State Plan Goal of Quality Assurance. The project would begin October 1, 2015. Applications are due by July 29, 2015. Money is available to fund one project a maximum of \$45,000 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 required to provide a 30% match of the funds requested. The match can be cash or in-kind. Federal dollars cannot be used as a match.

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, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Amount of Funds

The Council has set aside \$45,000 to fund one project in the below-stated goal area for one year. Upon approval by the Council, the project may be funded up to two additional years.

Reports and Delivery Dates

1. Subrecipient shall commence work on this project October 1, 2015.
2. Subrecipient and the Department of Health and Human Services Council staff will communicate throughout the Subaward cycle. Progress reports will be due to the Council staff two weeks following the end of each quarter (January 15, 2016; April 15, 2016; July 15, 2016; and October 15, 2016). 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 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 a Subaward 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.
3. 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.
4. Applications are due no later than **5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 29, 2015** to:

**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**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Goal:

Ensure Quality Assurance across the lifespan through legislation and education.

Focus:

The focus of this project is to determine recommendations/implementations for the following:

- To provide a framework that would serve to guide and provide better lifespan transition of service delivery to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the State of Nebraska.
- To enhance a collaborative approach and ownership among stakeholders to expand and build lifespan transition services.

Intent:

Conduct a collaborative study to develop recommendations for implementation of an enhanced quality of care system. The study will include a planning process to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in Nebraska through the lifespan transition process with a primary focus on youth. Project activities will explore how to allow for creative collaboration that improves quality and continuity. The study/plan will better align the efforts of the agencies and systems that support young adults through the lifespan transition process to enhance partnerships, collaboration, and awareness of the transition process.

- System coordination is central to the purpose, and the goal is to coordinate the systems through a strategic strengths-based and person-centered process that empowers individuals with developmental disabilities towards a successful transition into adulthood. The process for individuals with developmental disabilities who experience a dual diagnosis, who are in foster care, or who are wards of the state should also be included in the study.
- Because different funding streams have different requirements, it is the intent to find areas of flexibility to promote continuity of care despite changes in family situations.
 - Included could be a review of state data systems currently utilized to collect and analyze data while targeting services to those most in need, coordinating services, and measuring impact across programs leading to ongoing program improvement and policies.

For the purpose of this study, **transition services are defined as** a set of activities for a youth with a developmental disability that: (A) are designed to be a results-oriented process, focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the youth with a developmental disability to facilitate the youth's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation; (B) are based on the individual youth's needs, taking into account the

youth's strengths, preferences, and interests; (C) includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.¹

Expectations:

Supporting, reviewing, and revising collaboration procedures may be warranted for the success of systemic change to move beyond longstanding divisiveness and lack of communication among stakeholders. Effective collaboration requires partnership across multiple service systems; the strengths of those programs and the community promote a seamless system of quality care. Working across systems to improve the quality of both the collaboration and services delivered while blending funding and quality, and creatively minimizing complexities for those in services, reflects a labor intensive project. Collaborations may be more successful if built on trusting relationships, common understanding, and shared ownership of the initiative.

Subrecipient will study and develop a plan to increase collaboration and shared knowledge among all participants.

- Subrecipient will describe how stakeholders will be involved and how other resources will be included in the process.
 - Stakeholders will be recruited to participate in the project to develop strategies related to policy, potential administrative and regulatory changes, services and supports. Involved persons should be representatives from key state agencies, legislative aides, and stakeholders including persons with disabilities, family members and guardians, and service providers.
 - At a minimum, there will be involvement of various key agencies involved with lifespan transition services, including Nebraska's Department of Education Special Populations Office; Nebraska VR; and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Divisions of Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health, Children and Family Services, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, and Public Health.
- Subrecipient will explain intention to structure completion of goals and objectives, for example, through research, assessment, focus groups, interviews, and /or workgroups.
- Subrecipient will include letters of support/commitment to the project.
- Subrecipient will develop a strategic plan with action steps to improve, implement, and expand services and supports correlating to improvement of lifespan transition services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Targeted action steps might include:
 - Develop specific strategies and action plans to address and improve the cultural and linguistic competence of transition services and supports offered within Nebraska.

¹ <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/trans.index.htm#sthash.XHnT9FkW.dpuf>

- Recommend regulations, policies, and guidelines in various areas to strengthen interagency collaboration.
- Develop new strategies to overcome collaboration challenges and guide quality improvement efforts to implement lifespan transition services.
- Describe the service gaps, barriers, and other problems related to the need for infrastructure development.
- Research how leveraging multiple funding streams and joining forces could increase quality services across the lifespan to transition individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Subrecipient should have previous expertise and knowledge of systems involved and will assist in identifying gaps and barriers to supports and services. Outcome expected is that the subrecipient will identify solutions and recommendations by developing a strategic plan to be implemented focusing on collaboration between agencies and interested parties. This includes defining roles and the structure that the different systems of care provide for individuals with developmental disabilities who are going through transition.