



**Notice of Funds Available [NOFA]
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities**

2012 NOFA Proposal Process

A. New Applications: Letter of Interest followed by Full Proposal

- Applicants who have never applied to the council for funding must attend one of our pre-bid meetings to be held in March.
- As in prior years, the Letter of Interest and Proposal Process is a two-step procedure.
- There is no “set aside” this year for unfunded activity.
- PLEASE SEE www.njcdd.org for Letter of Interest Application and budget form

Required Documents:

Letter of Interest (provided) – deadline **January 24, 2012**

Notice of selection for full proposal packet (if solicited) – **February 28, 2012**

Full proposals due if selected - deadline **May 7, 2012**

Notice of Award: **July 30, 2012**

(Bidders workshops to be held in March – check www.njcdd.org for details)

B. Second-Third Year Projects up for consideration

- Applicants *do not* have to attend pre-bid meeting.
- Letter of Interest is simple statement of intent to apply for continuation
- Proposal consists of *detailed* discussion of progress toward existing goals, logical outline of proposed activity bringing the project to the next levels, and possible presentation to the Council’s Grants committee. [*Council staff will prepare this presentation for the Grant Committee’s response in each case.*]
- Application can be for *up to two* years of a project resulting in the deliverables stated, based on the initial application project design.
- Applicant must identify sources of continuing support for project upon completion, provide assessment of potential for such support from each source and provide a timeline for applying for and/or securing each resource.
- Continuing projects will either be funded, funded with modification or not funded based on their reports and (perhaps) a presentation to the Council’s Grants committee.

Required Documents:

Letter of Interest (format) – deadline **March 1, 2012**

Proposal Package sent to Interested Parties – **April 6, 2012**

Project Continuation Proposal Package - deadline **May 7, 2012**

Notice of Award: **July 30, 2012**

NJCDD NOFA Council Plan Objectives for FY 13 Subcontracts

The Council is seeking proposals for activities and or programs which explore and demonstrate approaches to achieve one or more of the following objectives in the areas of Employment, Health Care and Quality Assurance:

EMPLOYMENT

- A) Increase job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities which **pay real wages**. Work Activity Centers are encouraged to apply.
- B) Increase awareness concerning employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities so they and their families have higher expectations of their employability. **(Will not accept proposals for manuals)**.
- C) Support the work of the Alliance for Full Participation.

Discussion:

According to the Office of Disability Employment Policy, as of October 2011, the Labor Force Participation Rate for people with disabilities was 21.3% and the Unemployment Rate was 13.2%. And despite the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the unemployment rate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities has remained acutely lower than those with typical capabilities.

Attitudes are important influencers affecting the employment and retention rate of people with disabilities. Key issues include whether job seekers and their families perceive themselves as able to work and support themselves financially through working; whether employers and coworkers perceive the employment and retention of people with disabilities as profitable and safe for the organization and whether services providers, including workforce development professionals perceive that people with disabilities are capable of working.¹

The Alliance for Full Participation is a formal partnership of leading developmental disabilities organizations with a common vision –to create a better and more fulfilling quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

They define employment as Individuals with developmental disabilities who want to work in integrated settings along with their non-disabled colleagues. They want to be afforded the same wages, benefits, and opportunities to advance in their careers, and contribute to society, and move out of poverty. To obtain equal access to employment, education must make transition from school to work a priority rather than an add-on, and adult service providers must work to remove barriers and support individuals in real jobs for real pay.²

HEALTH

- A) Support systems change effort to expand information and availability of behavioral & psychiatric services, and emergency care for people with developmental disabilities of all ages. Must have the support of and work with the appropriate government agencies to implement program. (Must show letters of support from agencies you are working with).
- B) Develop information based tool, for families of persons with developmental disabilities and for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey, on how to navigate the health care system including coverage, locating providers and coordination of ongoing care. (Can include a web site **and** or manual)

Discussion:

These are challenging times for all given the country's current economic situation. Behavioral & psychiatric and emergency care services are severely lacking in New Jersey. However it's during times like these, innovation and solution solving are essential.

Behavioral & psychiatric and emergency care services are most effective when everyone involved in the care and treatment are allowed to actively participate in planning and decision making. In order for this to occur, collaboration between government agencies, service providers and service users is needed.

Major changes in the New Jersey Medicaid system are occurring that will have an impact on everyone who receives Medicaid including recipients with intellectual and developmental disabilities. However, care varies from person to person, depending on the complexity of the individual's health care problems and the availability of in-network health care providers with the expertise to provide the necessary medical, dental or mental health care, etc.

How health care delivery is structured can have a major impact on the quality of life and care provided to an individual. Navigating NJ's current system can be an intimidating task. For a person with a developmental disability it is difficult to find appropriate health care. He/she may live an area where there aren't health care providers within the system to treat specific needs, or he/she may have trouble finding or being able to afford health insurance. Family members and people with disabilities need to be able to find the supports they need for their health and health care whatever the challenge.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A) Address the need to increase New Jersey's capacity to appropriately serve people with developmental disabilities who are in the criminal justice system and or at risk for incarceration.
- B) Build linkages on a regional basis between public and private organizations to coordinate services for people with developmental disabilities.

Discussion:

People having developmental disabilities are vulnerable within the criminal justice system due to both internal and external influences. Not only do many individuals have characteristics that set them up for criminal behavior but they are likely to interact with police, lawyers, and courts in a manner resulting in unfortunate outcomes. Treatment should be based on intervention needs discerned from careful evaluation of personal, social, and system vulnerabilities. Individuals having developmental disabilities that have engaged in criminal acts are entitled to assessment and treatment as are their non-offending peers. Service providers will need to look beyond the label of criminal offender in order to meet their multiple treatment needs.³

In order for people with developmental disabilities to become productive and independent with the same quality of life afforded to their non-disabled peers, organizations both private and public need to come together to create a coherent system to deliver services.

People with disabilities should have the opportunity to receive services in ways that allow them to live in their community right alongside everyone else. Information should be available as to what services are available and how to make the best use of those services.

¹ <http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

² <http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/about-afp>

³ <http://www.thenadd.org/cgi-bin/checkmember.pl?page=pages/membership/bulletins/v4n3a3>