

Public Notice of Available Grant Funds
New Jersey Department of Human Services

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Availability of Grant Funds

Title of Grant: Statewide Assistive Technology Programs for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired.

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, 34.5, and 34.6, the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Commission or CBVI) hereby announces the availability of the following grant program funds.

A. Name of program: Statewide Assistive Technology Programs for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

B. Purpose: The purpose of this program is to provide assistive technology services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This program seeks to promote the full integration of persons who are blind or visually impaired into the mainstream of social and economic life of the community. The single contracted provider will provide services to the Commission on a statewide basis covering twenty-one (21) counties.

The provider will serve the Commission's consumers, children, adults, and children who have multiple disabilities on a statewide basis covering twenty-one (21) counties. Assistive technology services to be provided are primarily training, but evaluation and installation/integration of equipment may be requested on an as-needed basis and only when it is pre-approved by the Commission. There is an expectation of close interaction with the contracted provider agency and the teachers and counselors of the Commission.

C. Amount of available funding for the program: \$780,000 total for one year is available. The contract begins January 1, 2014 and ends December 31, 2014. There is no guarantee that the contract will be renewed. Successor contracts are anticipated dependent upon program success, client need and availability of funds.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Federal Vocational Rehabilitation program funds adult vocational rehabilitation clients and college students. Funds for provision of services to education and students with multiple disabilities are provided through State of New Jersey allocated funds.

This is not a cost related contract but instead an Annex B2, Non-Cost related contract as shown in the Department of Human Services Contract Reimbursement Manual (CRM3.2) where contracted providers will be reimbursed

at a pre-determined contracted fee for services provided on an hourly or service basis.

D. Organizations which may apply for funding under this program:

Assistive technology providers including community based organizations, public or private colleges and universities, public agencies including those of county or state, any other institution, association, business or other entity (profit or not-for-profit) that are eligible to provide services in New Jersey and can demonstrate a financial and programmatic ability to provide the required services as outlined in the RFP to ensure that the goals of the RFP are met and are able to address the assistive technology needs of people who are visually impaired or blind. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

E. Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding:

- Experience providing assistive technology services to children, adults, and children who have multiple disabilities.
- Ability to organize and integrate individual and group services for program participants.
- Ability to interact and work closely with CBVI staff including referring teachers and counselors, as well as staff of George F. Meyer Instructional Resource Center.
- Ability to work cooperatively with employers, school districts, teachers and others while providing services to referred clients upon request by the Commission.
- Ability to provide client reports and data to necessary staff at the Commission on a regular, organized and recurring basis but no later than ten (10) business days from the completion of the contracted service.
- Ability to provide the proposed services to the target population by demonstrating a satisfactory past history, adequate resources, and qualifications of staff.
- Demonstrate assistive technology qualifications of staff providing the services.
- Ability to serve non-English speaking clients.
- Access to and familiar with services in the counties to be served.
- Capable of implementing and managing programs.
- Able to maintain confidentiality of records and client information per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); and
- Able to comply with the terms and conditions of the Department of Human Services' rules and regulations as specified in the Standard Language Document and the DHS Contract Policy and Information Manual (CPIM) and the Contract Reimbursement Manual (CRM). On the DHS website: <http://www.state.nj.us/human/services/ocpm/home/resources/manuals/>

F. Procedure for eligible organizations to apply: A Request for Proposal is available and can be obtained by calling (973) 648-7416 or (973) 648-3333 or picked up in person at the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually

Impaired office, 153 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, NJ 07102. Applicants can also download the RFP from the DHS website at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/>

G. Address to which applications must be submitted:

Kevin Harris
New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired,
153 Halsey Street, 6th Floor
PO Box 47017,
Newark New Jersey 07101
Or if by hand to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Office
on the 6th floor at 153 Halsey Street, Newark NJ 07102
No emails or facsimiles will be accepted

H. Mandatory technical assistance workshop: Interested organizations must attend a mandatory technical assistance workshop to be held on **11/1/13** at the George F Meyer Instructional Resource Center, located at 375 McCarter Highway, Newark, NJ 07114, at 10:30 a.m. You must register in advance for the workshop by calling Kevin Harris at (973) 648-7416 or (973) 648-3333.

- I. Deadline by which applications must be submitted: By 11/22/13.**
II. After this date and time no applications will be accepted

J. Date the applicant is to be notified of acceptance or rejection: By 12/13/13.

Date: _____

Jennifer Velez, Commissioner,
Department of Human Services