

**** NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE ****
Call for Investments FFY 2017
(October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

Deadline for Letters of Intent: June 6, 2016
Deadline for Grant Application: July 7, 2016

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to announce that it will make available up to **\$100,000** (in total) to fund new projects aimed at improving opportunities for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to gain full participation and inclusion in their communities. The Council is an independent, self-governing State agency established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1972, and funded by the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Council membership is by appointment of the Governor and is composed of over sixty percent (60%) persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and family members.

Council Mission

The Council's mission is to assure that West Virginia citizens who have developmental disabilities receive the services, supports, and other forms of assistance they need to exercise self-determination and achieve independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in their community.

Five Year State Plan and Funding Targets

The DD Council will support innovative projects and activities based on goals and priorities described in its State Plan. To see the Plan, go to www.ddc.wv.gov and click on “**About Us**” prompt on left side of page then select “**State Plan.**” For FFY 2017 the Council will fund new demonstration, research and training projects specific to the following:

Funding Target/Project (1) Description: Training to Prevent Financial Exploitation

People with I/DD are at an extraordinarily high level of risk for abuse, including financial exploitation (Baladerian, 2013, Petersilia, 2000). A successful proposal will describe a collaborative project that explores the unique issues of vulnerability that people with I/DD face as part of a collaboration with other groups (e.g. Bureau of Senior Services, Legal Aid of West Virginia, West Virginia Advocates, Financial Exploitation Task Force or Social Security Administration) that have developed training to protect senior citizens or others at risk for abuse and mistreatment. Training should focus on educating people with I/DD and family members.

The project may cover protections available (e.g. special needs trusts, conservatorships) as well as needed safeguards to prevent fraud, misuse of funds or property, theft or other financial exploitation. Project planners will work to develop new educational activities (workshops, conferences) and/or products (guides, web-based courses) aimed at teaching people with I/DD, families and human services personnel about how to better support and safeguard adults with I/DD against exploitation.

Funding Target/Project (2) Description: Long Term Study and Report: Portrait of State Services and Impact of Medicaid I/DD Waiver Changes to People with I/DD and their Families

The Council believes that the I/DD Waiver Program is the most critical public support resource for people with I/DD in West Virginia. In 2015, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the WV DHHR BMS five year renewal application that included substantial changes including reductions in long standing and essential program supports such as respite care and person centered services.

This multi-year study (up to three years) will explore how I/DD Waiver Program changes affect the extent and adequacy of services related to person-centered approaches, intensity and appropriateness of supports, effects on the service recipients and caregivers/families, and access to services in the most integrated settings. The study will include assessment of the I/DD Waiver Program in meeting CMS guidelines for integrated settings.

Funding Target/Project (3) Description: Training on Customized Employment Approaches

There is a significant and unacceptable gap in the employment rates between West Virginians with and without disabilities. Less than fifteen percent (15%) of individuals with I/DD hold jobs in integrated settings (2014 US Census and Institute for Community Inclusion reports). In fact, the number of people with I/DD in segregated work settings has grown each year since 1990 (Institute for Community Inclusion, 2014).

Recent Federal policies and programs that impact people with I/DD have made a renewed commitment to integrated employment [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Rule and the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)] by setting new goals for supporting people in accessing real community employment.

A successful project will target behavioral health, vocational rehabilitation, education, and the business community for training. Training should include: Core Values (Employment First principles), Discovery/Individualized Assessment and Career Planning, Benefit Counseling, Job Carving, Self-Employment, Developing a Vocational Profile or Portfolio, Job Development and Community Research, Workplace and On-going Supports.

Funding Target/Project (4) Description: Teacher Preparation and Training to Better Support Students in Transition

Transition planning does not only involve preparing students for life after high school. Parents of students in special education programs have reported to the Council that planning focus is needed at transition points from early intervention to preschool, elementary to middle, and middle to high school. This is especially the case for students with severe and complex conditions who require, at times, intensive supports.

The Council will support training specific to regular and special educators or team approach that include other IEP team members including families, specialty personnel (e.g. speech language pathologist) and advocates. The aim is to bring together the right people to plan, and implement transition supports and necessary accommodations so that students have the best possible opportunity for meaningful inclusion into regular education classes and school life.

Funding Target/Project (5) Description: Community Building

Many supports that people with I/DD need to be truly integrated are not provided solely by publicly funded programs. They are found in the communities where people live: opportunities for learning, community association and membership, family and friends, spiritual and religious activities, work, sports and leisure, and access to programs that encourage creative expression. Community Building makes use of already existing resources and people to work toward common goals.

Community Building improves neighborhoods and towns by building on and welcoming the wide array of assets and strengths of all of its community members, including people with I/DD, who have historically been marginalized. It is a thoughtful and action oriented approach that builds connections and relationships to address and solve problems.

The Council seeks to support communities and leaders in a pilot demonstration project that uses Community Building principles to purposely involve people with I/DD in collaborative projects. Leaders may come from local non-disability oriented organizations, volunteer groups, local governments, individuals, or businesses link people to preferred, integrated employment, volunteer, recreation or other opportunities. This project would support community leaders who recognize that all citizens have a part to play in community improvement and solving community problems.

Project Purpose and Outcomes Expected

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council projects are time limited and address the Council's goals for supporting people with developmental disabilities in their communities. Proposals for demonstration grant projects are expected to be innovative and propose new ways to design and deliver community based services.

Grant proposals should include strategies for statewide systems improvement and be replicable in other communities. Council funds are limited. **The Council will not fund proposals that address issues that are the obligation by law or regulation of other agencies or organizations. Additionally, the Council does not intend to replace funds that programs expect to lose from other sources.**

Non-Solicited Project Ideas

Organizations may also submit project ideas (and formal proposals) that are not specifically described in this Notice but support the Council's overall mission and State Plan goals.

Eligible Organizations

Public and private agencies, universities, and research organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations that receive grant awards from the Council must meet all conditions set forth in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Grant Agreement and comply with all applicable policies of the WV DD Council. Information about specific legal, fiscal, and administrative rules is available upon request.

Call for Investments Proposal Timeline and Process

1. **Technical Assistance and Clarifications:** Frequently asked questions and answers from previous years are posted on the DD Council's web site: www.ddc.wv.gov "Council Projects" prompt on left side of page then select "Grant Funding."
2. **Letter of Intent:** *The submission of the Letter of Intent is optional, and the lack of one will not reflect negatively on the evaluation of a complete proposal.* The Letter of Intent provides the applicant organization an opportunity to receive preliminary written feedback on the proposed project. Any interested and eligible organization may submit its project idea to address one or more funding targets listed in this Notice.

The Letter of Intent (instructions below) will include information about the organization's history in supporting people with developmental disabilities and qualifications to carry out the proposed project. **The Letter of Intent must be received no later than the end of the business June 6, 2016.**

3. **Formal Project Application:** The formal application for funding must be an original copy (**no faxes**) and received no later than the **end of the business July 7, 2016**. The proposal details are contained in the Grant Application document.

Successful proposals will have the potential for statewide applicability and include plans for sustainability of the project beyond the initial investment period (if appropriate).

4. **Awards and Notification:** The WV DD Council intends to approve funding for selected grant project applications on **July 26, 2016**. All applicant organizations will be notified in writing within five working days after the decisions are made. Grant awards are based on the availability of funds and response to this Notice, and the overall State Plan goals of the Council.

Interested parties may obtain copies of the grant application by contacting the office or downloading the information from the website at: www.ddc.wv.gov “Council Projects” prompt on left side of page then select “Grant Funding.”

Send *Letters of Intent* and completed *Grant Applications* to:

**WV Developmental Disabilities Council
110 Stockton Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25387**

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Format for Letter of Intent
*** OPTIONAL ***
FFY 2017

I. Purpose

The **Letter of Intent** provides the potential applicant for grant funds an opportunity to outline a possible proposal and receive preliminary feedback on that idea.

II. Content

The **Letter of Intent** must be typewritten and not exceed **two pages** in length. The following outline is to be followed:

- A. Identification of the **issue** (e.g., self employment) for which the organization is interested in making an application.
- B. Description of the **goals and key objectives to be accomplished** in one year. Description of goals and objectives planned to be accomplished in subsequent years (one or two additional years) if they are necessary for the completion of this project.
- C. Identification of the **anticipated methods to be used** to carry out the project including collaboration with other community organizations. Description of how the results of the project will benefit people with developmental disabilities in achieving greater independence, inclusion, productivity and gain greater control over their own lives in their communities.
- D. Summary of the **anticipated budget** for the project for one year.

Notes:

- **Letters of Intent may be submitted by fax, email, mail or hand delivered.**
- **Feedback will be given only to those Letters of Intent received by EOB June 6, 2016.**