

**** NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE****

Call for Investments

Grant Project Period: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Deadline for Letters of Intent: August 31, 2020

Deadline for Grant Applications: October 1, 2020 (Noon)

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to announce that it will make funds available for 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 Disabilities/ Office 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

The DD Council will support innovative projects and activities based on goals and priorities described in its State Plan. Grant projects seek to demonstrate and study the impact of new approaches in service planning and delivery. To see the Plan, go to <https://ddc.wv.gov> and click on “**About Us**” prompt on left side of page then select “**State Plan.**” For FFY 2021 - FFY 2022, the Council will fund new demonstration, research, and training projects that would help accomplish objectives related to the Goals contained in the State Plan:

Council State Plan Goals

1. **Service System:** Public service systems will be more responsive to the needs of people with I/DD and their families so that the people with I/DD will have better opportunities to learn, work and thrive in their communities.

Activities will be carried out to address improvements in the service systems' performance in critical areas such as: the use of person-centered approaches; the development and retention of a quality workforce; and the assurance of personal safety and rights protections.

2. **Advocacy:** People with I/DD, their families and allies will gain knowledge and develop necessary advocacy skills and use them to advocate for their rights, access to needed services and systems' changes.

Activities will support self-advocacy, cross-disability advocacy and leadership training.

3. **Community Building and Engagement:** Communities will include people with I/DD as participating, valued members.

Activities will support and strengthen greater community engagement of people with I/DD; help people improve their self-image; and engage in healthy lifestyles and wellness programs.

Note: In some objectives on the State Plan there are specific grant initiatives being carried out currently. Organizations are encouraged to submit *Letters of Intent* (see below) for any prospective project as a means of getting clarity on the advisability of developing full proposals.

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 (as appropriate). 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 have lost or expect to lose from other sources.**

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

Eligible Organizations

Public and private entities, 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: <https://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 attached) 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 business (EOB) August 31, 2020.**

Note: Other than the written feedback to Letters of Intent, neither the Council staff nor Members will entertain questions regarding applicants' proposals.

3. **Formal Project Application:** The formal application for funding must be an original copy mailed and received no later than Noon on October 1, 2020. The proposal details are contained in the Grant Application document.
4. **Awards and Notification:** The WV DD Council intends to approve funding for selected grant project applications on **October 27, 2020**. All applicant organizations will be notified in writing 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: <https://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
Instructions for Letter of Intent
*** OPTIONAL ***

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 email (steve.a.wiseman@wv.gov), fax (304-558-0941), or mail (see below).
- Feedback will be given only to those Letters of Intent received by EOB on August 31, 2020

WV DD Council
110 Stockton Street
Charleston, WV 25387