

GRANT POLICY

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, was created in 1971 in response to federal legislation. The Governor must appoint 27 members of which half must be people with developmental disabilities or parents of people with developmental disabilities. State departments and agencies that administer certain federal programs must also be represented. Remaining members should consist of various public representatives. Council members must provide qualified, diverse representation.

To attain our goal, a state plan is prepared to describe the quality, extent, and scope of services that should be provided to people with developmental disabilities. The Council monitors and evaluates the process and reviews other state service plans for persons with developmental disabilities. The Council also selects one priority every three years and funds projects that are designed to carry out the priority.

An in-depth review for the years from 1980 to 1990, examined the planning, policy development and funding work of the Council. The review analyzed the crucial issues and challenges of the times and our response and accomplishments. Grant funds at the beginning of the 1980s were used to expand services such as respite care. Attention then focused on improving selected federal priority services such as employment and case management. The Council's concerns then shifted to improving the results and outcomes of the service system, paying special attention to the day-to-day impact that occurred in the lives of individuals and families with developmental disabilities. Developing leadership became the most recent priority.

RANGE OF ACTIONS

The Council works toward accomplishing its mission through the following actions outlined in federal law:

- Using 65% of the federal funds to make grants to improve the productivity, independence, and integration of persons with developmental disabilities into the community.
- Monitoring the actions of state departments and agencies to insure that they provide state-of-the-art services.
- Planning activities that enhance the family's role in helping persons with developmental disabilities reach their full potential.
- Educating professionals, paraprofessionals, family members, and individuals with developmental disabilities about what is possible.
- Advocating public policy change so that persons with developmental disabilities receive the services, support and assistance needed.
- Promoting the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in community life, especially those individuals with the most severe disabilities.

BACKGROUND

Our primary goal is to support people with developmental disabilities so that they may reach their maximum potential through increased productivity, independence, and community integration.

Our mission is to advocate for people with developmental disabilities to improve their quality of life, expand their rights, improve their dignity and to enhance self-determination.

A trend toward direct involvement of generic community organizations to provide services to people with developmental disabilities started to emerge recently. This trend served as a signal to the Council to work with new groups of civic minded people such as:

- Student organizations in high schools.
- Local neighborhood and community organizations.
- Private sector corporations that are major employers.
- Civic improvement and development and development associations.
- Employee associations and trade unions.
- Recreation and tourism groups.
- Health, fitness, wellness organizations.
- Environmental, ecological improvement and safety groups.
- Post-secondary and university organizations.
- Philanthropic foundations.

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Only requests that fall within the Council's current priority will be considered.

GRANT MAKING PROCEDURES

The Council has limited resources and will assign a higher priority to sharply focused topics because we believe they are more likely to have an impact.

Federal law requires that the Council select one of four federal priority areas such as community living activities, employment activities, child development activities, or system coordination and community education activities; or a state priority are such as activities in an area considered essential by the State Council. Some level of effort must occur in the employment priority.

The current Council priority is "Leadership for Empowerment." This is a state priority area. The Council plans to train a pyramid of people across Minnesota who will represent and transmit a progressive vision of quality for the next century. These local leaders will possess the abilities and support networks to form creative friendships, civic alliances, and community organizational development. This approach will enhance personal competence, knowledge, judgment, and participation in the political process. Individuals will serve as public role models and actively groom new civic leaders to join the ranks of existing community representatives and policymakers; guiding and influencing our social and democratic institutions in every arena and at every level.

In short, it is the Council's intent to root a strategy of promoting and multiplying personal empowerment, significantly expanding personal choices in the areas of community life, school, work, leisure, cultural affairs, economic equity, and parity. The Council will also enhance the level of social participation among its constituency.

SUPPORT

The Council's central concern is to meet the needs of people who are the most severely disabled. Our primary interest is projects that expand the scope of existing programs, develop new programs, or show innovative approaches to a particular need. Typically, such projects are not part of an organizations current operating budget. The following activities are permitted by federal law:

- Increase the capabilities and resources of public and private nonprofit organizations to develop a system for providing special adaptation of services that answer the needs and capabilities of persons with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Conduct studies and analysis, gather information, develop model policies and procedures. Present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to federal, state, and Local policymakers.
- Show new ways to enhance the independence, productivity, and community integration of persons with developmental disabilities.

- Provide outreach activities allowing persons with developmental disabilities to gain assistance in federal and state priority areas.
- Educate persons with developmental disabilities, their family members, and other personnel including professionals, paraprofessionals, students, and volunteers.
- Establish similar activities designed to prevent the occurrence of developmental disabilities or to expand and enhance the independence, productivity, and community integration of persons with developmental disabilities.

Geographic Focus

Funds are targeted to areas within Minnesota with large numbers of unserved and underserved people.

Grant Period

Grants are normally made for one year. Funding for continuing projects beyond one year will be considered, but a new application must be submitted. Federal funds are distributed to the Council one year at a time.

REQUEST CRITERIA

Grants are awarded according to Public Law 101-496 and the regulations supporting it. In addition, the Council must follow state laws and rules governing grants and contracts. In reviewing requests, The Council will be guided by the following criteria.

Responsiveness: The requesting organization and its program is responsive to the views, needs, and strengths of the people it seeks to serve. Procedures exist to engage representatives of the community in discussions of policy and program design.

Outcomes: There is a reasonable link between the proposed activities and a change status of the need or problem. Documentation or measurement of the change is part of the proposal. Potential exists for the proposed project to result in changes in public or private systems. Those changes should endure beyond the life of the project.

Planning: There is a well developed strategy for implementing the project program. Realistic and definable goals and objectives exist. The timeline is reasonable. If appropriate, a workable plan exists for future funding.

Evaluation: The applicant knows whether the project or program succeeds. An evaluation plan to address project outcomes has been developed.

Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants for grant must be classified by the Federal Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt, nonprofit organizations that are not private foundations. Except in unusual circumstances, proposals will be considered only from organizations that have received a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service regarding their tax exempt status.

Government units are eligible to apply for special projects funding that complement their customary public functions.

The use of fiscal agents is discouraged, but cooperation and/or collaboration of organizations on the same project is encouraged. For example, a joint application with an organization that is designated as the fiscal agent is encouraged.

What is not eligible?

- Biomedical research.
- Ticket sales, fund raising dinners, festivals, celebrations, and similar activities.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of buildings.
- Purchase of equipment.
- Services that have been reduced or eliminated from other public funding.

**If you have questions
or need more
information call:**
612/296-4018 Voice
612/296-9962 TDD
612/297-7200 FAX

Organizational Capacity: It is within the mission of the applicant organization to address the identified goals. The staff is qualified to undertake the proposed work. There is community support for the organization and the proposed project. The organization's board is experienced in governance, policy development, financial oversight, and fund raising. The organization's resources are committed to the project.

Resources: The nature and stability of the organization's funding are described. There is a capacity to obtain other support necessary for the project. Other appropriate, potential funding sources have been explored. How funds are leverage will need to be described.

Distribution and Products: The products (deliverables) are described. There is a workable distribution plan. Sufficient copies will be supplied to the Council.

Continuation and Replication: The applicant will continue the project after the grant period and has a firm commitment for continuation. The project is suitable for replication. Replication plans are described.

Cost Effectiveness: All project budgets will be reviewed as they relate to the project purpose. Funds proposed for activities not related to project purpose will be disallowed. An audit is required for all Council grants.

Note: All grant recipients are expected to cooperate with an evaluator who is under contract to the Council. Grant recipients are expected to collect data necessary for evaluation.

**Governor's Planning
Council on Developmental
Disabilities**

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