

## **Request for Applications**

### **Issued by:**

NEBRASKA PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Department of Health and Human Services  
PO Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

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**An application packet must be obtained by contacting the Council Office at 402-471-2330 or [dhhs.ddplanningcouncil@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.ddplanningcouncil@nebraska.gov)**

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announced on June 12, 2017 the availability of funds for the State Plan Goal of Community Inclusion - Respite. The project would begin October 1, 2017. Applications are due by **Wednesday, July 24, 2017, by 5:00 pm**. Money is available to fund a grant project for a maximum of \$25,000 for one year. Funding for this project comes from federal monies awarded to the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, through the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act. Eligible applicants are profit and nonprofit entities, faith-based organizations, state agencies, institutions of higher education, or local subdivisions of government. Applicants will be required to provide a 30% match of the funds requested. The match can be cash or in-kind. Federal dollars cannot be used as a match.

### **Developmental Disability Definition**

The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (a) self-care; (b) receptive and expressive language; (c) learning; (d) mobility; (e) self-direction; (f) capacity for independent living; and (g) economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
- An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more functional limitations in major life activities, if the individual, without services and supports has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

### **Time Frame**

October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

### **Amount of Funds**

The Council has set aside \$25,000 to fund one project for one year for the State Plan Goal detailed in the Project Description on page 3.

DD subaward funds **cannot** be used for the following:

- To purchase equipment including computers;
- Ongoing operating expenses;
- For construction or renovation costs;
- Direct services for people with developmental disabilities (unless these services are part of a model demonstration).

### **Reports and Delivery Dates**

1. Subrecipient shall commence work on this project no earlier than October 1, 2017.
2. Subrecipient and the Department of Health and Human Services Council staff will communicate throughout the subaward cycle. Progress reports will be due to the Council staff two weeks following the end of each quarter (January 15, 2018; April 15, 2018; July 15, 2018; and October 15, 2018). A final report will be due 30 days after the end of the subaward cycle.

### **Additional Requirements**

1. Interested agencies must request an application packet by contacting the Council office at 402-471-2330 or [dhhs.ddplanningcouncil@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.ddplanningcouncil@nebraska.gov). Applicant must follow the application instructions provided in the packet.
2. Submitted applications must include the signed Cover Sheet and the Department of Health and Human Services Subaward General Terms and Assurances. Please note that by submitting and signing the application, the applicant agrees that if a subaward is awarded, the program will be operated as described in the Subaward Application for funding in accordance with the Subaward General Terms and Assurances. The individual signing these documents must be authorized to legally bind the applicant.
3. This document, together with the approved proposal of the Subrecipient, the Cover Sheet, Subaward General Terms and Assurances, Program Specific Requirements, and the letter of award which includes the amount, award period, and any contingencies, shall constitute the entire agreement between DHHS and the sub recipient.
4. Applications are due no later than **5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 24, 2017** to:

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Goal:** Increase community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities.

**Objective B:** Expand and enhance respite care services throughout the state.

**Diverse Identities** refers to people of various races, cultural and ethnic heritages, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, ages, and religions from diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds.

**Focus and Intent:** The primary focus of this subaward opportunity is to form a Task Force to develop a framework to strengthen, support, and expand the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network system in order to advance capacity to deliver respite care and related services to family caregivers of adults and children with developmental disabilities, especially for individuals with behavioral needs.

Subaward funds will be used to:

- Address identified gaps in skilled providers for individuals with significant behavioral needs;
- Address identified gaps in respite care service delivery and unmet respite needs;
- Address barriers to respite care services utilization;
- Advance the state's existing respite care initiatives; and
- Develop a policy framework that expands and strengthens continued provision of respite and related supports to family caregivers across the lifespan.

The gap-filling framework will be expected to build on advancements of the current state respite system while focusing on developing and strengthening the components of the system deemed necessary for improving access, consistency, quality, and sustainability of respite service delivery. The Task Force will utilize existing data and, if needed, collect additional documentation on the issues that hinder the ability of families to fully access respite funding, and recommend strategies and next steps to address these challenges and barriers. Emphasis should include strengthening the capacity of respite providers who can meet the needs of adults and children with developmental disabilities who have behavioral needs.

Partnership, collaboration, and stakeholder involvement are critical components of successful statewide Lifespan Respite Care Programs. The proposal must identify how the Task Force will engage a broad array of stakeholders to actively collaborate in the process to ensure that the needs of family caregivers are addressed. Task Force representation may include Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network\*, Nebraska Caregiver Coalition, UNMC/Munroe-Meyer Institute, the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Project, organizations representing individuals with special needs; any other public, private, or not-for-profit entities that are providing respite care services or other supports to caregivers, and any additional resources that can be leveraged to further support the expansion of lifespan respite care services.

Task Force will be expected to propose systems-level, programmatic-level AND consumer-level strategies to strengthen and improve the utilization of respite services. Strategies might include: expanding behavior training opportunities or mentorship programs for respite providers resulting in a measureable increase in providers who are trained and willing to serve individuals with behavioral needs.

\*The Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network Program is funded through the Healthcare Trust Fund dollars, the purpose of which is threefold: expand and enhance respite care services to family caregivers; improve the statewide dissemination and coordination of respite care; and provide, supplement, or improve access to and quality of respite care services to family caregivers, thereby reducing family caregiver strain. Therefore, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating the greatest likelihood of making measurable advances in expanding the access, utilization, and sustainability of respite services, including a consistent, trained provider base within the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network.

Task Force evaluation efforts shall include the following descriptive information as it pertains to the caregiving needs and current respite care infrastructure of family caregivers of adults and children with developmental disabilities in Nebraska:

- The nature and scope of lifespan respite care services currently available in Nebraska;
- The extent and nature of the respite care needs, especially individuals with behavioral needs;
- Number of family caregivers being served through the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network:
  - The extent of unmet needs
  - Existing gaps and unmet needs that need to be addressed;
- Effectiveness of current methods or systems to coordinate respite care information and services for family caregivers at the state and local levels.

### **Action Plan**

Applications should clearly describe their approach to enhance, develop, and expand involvement of key stakeholders from across the age and disability spectrum as full partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the state respite program with the Task Force initiative.

Task Force recommendations shall include:

- Approach for advancing the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network, with particular attention to meeting behavioral needs.
- Review of monthly respite allowance.
- Potential changes of administrative functions.
- Capacity building strategies for respite care providers (both paid and unpaid):
  - This may also include training and ongoing development of new and existing respite care professionals.
- Leveraging of resources across various funding streams and partners to deliver, sustain, and expand available respite care services.
- Policy development that would support or sustain the continuation of lifespan respite care services in the future.
  - Document how potential changes to service provision through policy development and strategies will increase access to respite services beyond the life of the subaward.
- Optional services based on available evidence, emerging strategies, and promising practices in the field of respite to expand capacities and deliver direct services. For more information on emerging, model, or promising practices in the field of respite and family caregiver support, applicants should review information available on the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center website at <https://archrespite.org/ta-center-for-respite/>.