**Request for Applications**

RFA – 2022.1.2a

**TITLE: Employer Virtual Forum**

**FUNDING AGENCY: North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)*,*** NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of the Secretary

**ISSUE DATE: December 21, 2021**

**DEADLINE DATE: January 20, 2022**

**All applications (included in this RFA announcement) must be received by 5:00 pm EST on January 20, 2022 as an attachment in an e-mail to** **RFAinfo@nccdd.org****. Please notify at least two weeks in advance of the due date if you need application materials in an alternate format or otherwise require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

Direct all inquiries concerning this Request for Applications (RFA) to:

**Electronic Mailing Address:** RFAinfo@nccdd.org

**David Ingram Tamira White**

Director of Operations Systems Change Manager

DHHS-NC Council on Developmental Disabilities DHHS-NC Council on Developmental Disabilities

(919) 527-6503 (919) 527-6507

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**Proof of submission: You will receive a return e-mail within 24 hrs., or the next business day, to confirm your submission. If you have not heard from NCCDD in two days, please give us a call.**

***DISCLAIMER: The NCCDD reserves the right to use discretionary judgment on any application they deem appropriate.*****Funds will be distributed consistent with the Council’s mandate in Federal Law for commitment to systems change, advocacy, and capacity building.**

**I. INTRODUCTION/ABOUT NCCDD**

The NCCDD makes funds available to fulfill its mission in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) and the Council’s Five-Year State Plan. The NCCDD’s major funding source is the United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Disabilities, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The NCCDD makes funds available primarily through competitive bids or Requests for Applications (RFAs). A general description of the current RFA is included in this document.

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD), authorized under Public Law 106-402, the DD Act, is one of 56 entities of its type in the United States and the territories. The NCCDD is an independent agency located in the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Its activities are governed by a 40-member body, appointed by the Governor, and comprised of at least 60 percent people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Other members include legislators and policymakers representing various agencies and organizations having a vested interest in people with I/DD. The Council’s quarterly meetings are open to the public.

The mission of the NCCDD is to assure that individuals with I/DD and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, contribution, self-determination, integration and inclusion in the community. The NCCDD achieves this mission by promoting advocacy and leadership, community capacity building and systems change activities. It also serves in an advisory capacity, under state law, to the NC DHHS.

The NCCDD has established goals and objectives in its Five-Year Plan (2012-2026). These goals represent the most pressing needs as identified by stakeholders in North Carolina. These goals are approved by the Council as the framework for its work within the context of the Five-Year Plan.

GOAL 1: By 2026, increase financial security through asset development for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

GOAL 2: By 2026, increase community living for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

GOAL 3: By 2026, increase advocacy for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

For further information on the work of the NCCDD, please see the NCCDD Five-Year State Plan at our website by clicking <https://nccdd.org/the-council/five-year-plan.html>

**II. REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

***INTENT:***

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) intends to fund a short-term initiative to provide resources and information to increase employment opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD); to provide businesses and employers “how to” strategies for recruiting, hiring, and retaining these employees in an inclusive work environment; and to receive recommendations for potential future initiatives. This grant has become possible due to short-term funds available to the Council that need to be expended by August 31, 2022.

***DELIVERABLES:***

The organization chosen by the NCCDD will be expected to:

1. Perform a needs assessment to determine the business and employer training needs.
2. Collaborate with self-advocates to provide employers with the self-advocate perspective to employment.
3. Produce an employer training curriculum, based on the needs assessment, that can be shared with Vocational Rehabilitation Business Relations Representatives across the state. NCCDD staff will assist with establishing a connection with Vocational Rehabilitation to determine employer training needs and how to implement the curriculum into practice.
4. Establish a consortium of employers who have an interest and/or demonstrate an ability to be able to successfully recruit, hire, and retain employees with I/DD. This consortium will:
	1. Work to build a peer to peer connection among employers.
	2. Provide virtual and hybrid opportunities for the consortium to meet and collaborate on a regular schedule.
	3. Provide input and planning/implementation/expansion support on NC DHHS outreach and pilot projects regarding transition to work initiatives (e.g., Build Back Better Act and/or other State or Federal initiatives relating to employment for individuals living with I/DD).
5. Provide ongoing follow-along and coaching to employers as members of the consortium.
	1. Establish a system to acknowledge small and medium-sized businesses who participate and join the consortium.
	2. Provide a forum to highlight successes among business and employers who implement inclusive hiring practices.
	3. Provide support to address challenges in hiring, training, and recruiting individuals with I/DD.
6. In collaboration with the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, develop short (approximately 30 minutes) informational webinars that employers can navigate at their own pace. Collaboration activities with the chosen organization can include, but are not limited to: promoting the webinar, hosting the webinar, and accommodations. Webinar topics must include, but are not limited to:
	1. Comprehensive overview of Customized Integrated Employment
	2. Addressing myths around hiring individuals with I/DD
	3. Provide detailed information explaining reasonable accommodations
	4. Address legal issues around hiring individuals with I/DD.

***ADDITIONAL CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:***

Provide NCCDD the mandatory reports (i.e., monthly programmatic reports, monthly fiscal reports for reimbursements, and a final report including survey outcomes and recommendations for future initiatives).

The funding for this RFA will be up to **$50,000.00** for the period beginning **March 1, 2022** and ending **August 31, 2022** with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds ($16,667).

Definition of a Developmental Disability

Per the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Amendments of 2000, section 102(8), “The term 'developmental disability' means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

* is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
* is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
* is likely to continue indefinitely;
* results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity;

(i) Self-care;

(ii) Receptive and expressive language;

(iii) Learning;

(iv) Mobility;

(v) Self-direction;

(vi) Capacity for independent living;

(vii) Economic self-sufficiency; and

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.”

**III. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

Applications are welcomed from any university, non-profit, for-profit or government agency that demonstrates that their agency is qualified, responsible, and capable of conducting the activities described. Eligible entities include any organizations, agencies, or businesses demonstrating an expertise in the focus area of this initiative. To be eligible, non-profit private entities must submit proof of current 501(c)3 status with a current IRS determination letter dated in the current year. The Council will not consider applications submitted by agencies that do not meet eligibility to apply for funding.

Non-profit applicants must be registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State to conduct business in North Carolina, or be willing to complete the registration process in conjunction with the execution of the contract documents

(see [www.sosnc.gov/corporations](http://www.sosnc.gov/corporations)).

***USE OF FUNDS:***

Contract funds may be used to support personnel services, operating expenses, and contracted services. Funds must be budgeted in the categories listed in the line item budget. Applicants must develop a budget narrative to accompany the line item budget. The line item budget and the budget narrative must show a clear relationship between the proposed budget and the proposed activities stated in the initiative plan**.**

**Funds may not support efforts to engage in any political activities or lobbying.**

**IV. APPLICATION PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPLICATION REVIEW**

The following is a general description of the process by which applicants will be selected for funding for this initiative.

* 1. RFA announcements are sent to prospective agencies and organizations, via email, and/or posted on the NCCDD website, the DHHS website, and the NCCDD social media pages.
	2. Applications are due by 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on **January 20, 2022**. Electronic submission is required to RFAinfo@nccdd.org
	3. Applications will be evaluated by an RFA Review Committee. The recommendations of this committee will be reviewed by the NCCDD, which reserves the right to accept or reject the Review Committee’s recommendations.
	4. Agencies and organizations are cautioned that this is a Request for Applications, and the funding agency reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all applications when such rejections are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency.
	5. Application Process Dates Summary:
		+ **December 21, 2021**: Request for applications distributed to eligible applicants and posted on the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities website ([www.nccdd.org](http://www.nccdd.org)).
		+ **January 13, 2022:** Interested applicants may attend a Question and Answer Session via Zoom from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. (Details below).
		+ **January 20, 2022**: Applications due to the NCCDD by close of business, 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.
		+ **February 24, 2022**: Award announced.
		+ **March 1, 2022**:Contract begins.

**RFA Process Question and Answer Session**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

**1:30 pm to 3:00 pm EST**

Join staff of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) on Zoom to hear about this funding opportunity available **NOW.** This virtual question and answer session will allow participants to ask questions about the intent of the grant releases, how to apply, and timing of the request for applications (RFA) process. If you cannot attend the on January 13th but have questions, please write to RFAinfo@nccdd.org.  Following the Q & A Session, all questions and responses will be posted to the NCCDD website here: [https://www.nccdd.org//initiatives/apply-here-for-open-rfas.html](https://www.nccdd.org/initiatives/apply-here-for-open-rfas.html).  We look forward to seeing you! See Zoom connection detail below.

Link:  <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612512648?pwd=ZEpTTmNhdUNKTFB0akk0Z2RNL29Ddz09>

Meeting ID: 161 251 2648

Passcode: NCCDDRFA

Call-in Phone Number: 1 646 828 7666

**V. ATTACHMENTS TO BE COMPLETED UPON AWARD**

All these documents must be completed if your agency is awarded the contract for this RFA. The NCCDD will not execute a contract until it is in receipt of all attachments:

* NCCDD Assurances
* Notice of Certain Reporting and Audit Requirements
* Conflict of Interest Policy/Letter (Contractor’s COI)
* Conflict of Interest Verification – Annual
* Indirect Cost Rate Letter – if applicable
* 501(c)(3) Status Determination Letter/Form (private non-profit agencies) (Note: Public organizations shall submit a document verifying their legal name and tax identification number.)
* IRS Tax Letter
* Annual IRS Tax Exemption Verification Form (private non-profit agencies)
* State Certifications
* Federal Certifications
* DUNS Letter
* Completed Letter to Identify Individual to Sign Contracts
* Completed Letter to Identify Individual to Sign Expenditure Reports
* Certification of No Overdue Taxes (applies to non-governmental entities)
* Proof of Insurance, if applicable

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to submit the attachments along with their application. If attachments are not submitted and the applicant is selected to receive the funding for this initiative, the attachments must be completed and submitted with the contract. Failure to provide these timely may result in disqualification for funding.

**VI. APPLICATION TO NCCDD**

**Employer Virtual Forum**

**Application Form (On-line or by e-mail to** **info@nccdd.org****)**

 **(ONLY ONE NAME/ORGANIZATION PER APPLICATION)**

**If you need assistance completing this application, please contact 1-919-527-6500**

Date:

 Name of NC Community-Based Organization:

 EIN of organization:

 Contact Person and title:

 Address:

 Email:

 Phone:

 Website:

***On a separate page, please answer the following questions:***

1. Provide a brief description of how you would meet each of the deliverables of this grant (not to exceed a paragraph for each deliverable).

2. Briefly describe any experience your organization has in doing outreach with, providing resources to, and/or working with employers and businesses.

3. Briefly describe any experience your organization has in doing outreach with, providing resources to, and/or working with disability communities, with specific focus on I/DD communities as applicable.

4. Explain the need or gap in services that will be served through this grant and how the funds will help meet the need or address the gap in services.

5. How many people with I/DD and family members of individuals with I/DD you expect will benefit from these resources?

6. Describe expected outcomes: What will happen as a result of these resources?

7. How will you demonstrate that you achieved your outcomes: How will you know you were successful? (For example, how will you gather the data? Through surveys, direct observation, individuals’ self- reports?)

8. Who will be responsible for managing this contract for your organization?

*I certify that the information I have provided with this application is true to the best of my knowledge and acknowledge that any omissions or incorrect information will be grounds for disqualification of the proposal.*

Printed Name (e-sig) of Organizational Leader:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name (e-sig) of Contact Person for this proposal (if different):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **NC COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (NCCDD)** |
| **BUDGET** |
| ***PROJECT TITLE/AGENCY NAME:*** |  |  |   |
|   | NCCDD FUNDS |   | TOTAL |
| POSITION OR DESCRIPTION | REQUIRED | MATCH | PROGRAM COST |
| **STAFF SALARIES/WAGES**(Description: Salaries/Wages only for staff hired by the applicant organization to work specifically on the initiative. This may include professional staff, interns, paraprofessionals, and/or part-time/hourly employees.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 Add pages or lines as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **STAFF FRINGE BENEFITS** (Description: Fringe Benefits only for staff hired working on the initiative may include FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Compensation, Health Insurance and/or Retirement Benefits.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 Add pages or lines as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **SUPPLIES & MATERIALS**(Description: Supplies and materials may include consumable items that are essential to the program. Examples of allowable supplies include office supplies, computer supplies, medical supplies, furniture, directories and/or journals.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 For example, Office supplies - pens/pencils, folders, notebooks, case of papers, etc. Add pages or lines as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **STAFF TRAVEL** (Description: Travel costs for staff hired as identified in the budget that is deemed reasonable and necessary.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 Add pages or lines as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **CONTRACTED SERVICES/SUBCONTRACTING**(Description: Contracted Services may include essential services which cannot be met by other program staff which specifically relate to the work of the program. The Contracted Services line item must be itemized based on the subcontract agreement. A copy of the contract must be included.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 Attach pages as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **OTHER** (Description: The Other category may include audit services, service payment such as stipends, costs incurred for conferences, postage/mail, internet, printing/copies, training/meetings, cleaning/janitorial, license fees, incentives, participants insurance and bonding and any other services or expenses that will not fit into another category.) |
| ***Justification - Description is needed for anything over $3,000.00 Add pages or lines as necessary.*** |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
|   | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| SUBTOTAL | $0.00  | $0.00  | $0.00  |
| **TOTAL** | **$0.00**  | **$0.00**  | **$0.00**  |