**RFA 2023-2024.1.a I/DD Services Champion RFA**

**RFA Q&A Session March 14th, 2023 Q&A**

1. **Do you have to be a nonprofit to apply?**

**Answer**: No, all non-profits, university, not-for-profit, for-profit, or government agency are eligible to apply for this RFA whether they are in state or out of state. All organizations not registered to do business in the State of North Carolina will need to complete the required paperwork with the NC Secretary of State’s office if awarded the contract. Information can be found at: <https://www.sosnc.gov/>

1. **Do you need to support individuals across the state, or can it just be regional?**

**Answer:** Yes, the intent of this award is to support individuals with I/DD and family members with lived experience across the state.

1. **Will only one grant be awarded?**

**Answer**: Yes. The intention is for NCCDD to select one awardee for the I/DD Services Champion RFA. Organizations can partner together to address the deliverables in the RFA, but only one application needs to be submitted from the lead agency. The application review committee will make recommendations to the full Council in our May 2023 Council meeting.

1. **Can you still ask questions after the March 14th, 2023 Bidders’ Workshop?**

**Answer**: Yes. We will continue to receive questions about the I/DD Services Champion RFA until March 28th, 2023 at 5:00 ET at RFAinfo@nccdd.org. The Q&A from the Bidders’ Workshop will be posted on March 22nd, 2023 by 5:00 ET. Any questions received after March 22nd will be reviewed and the answer will be posted on our website by March 29th, 2023 by 5:00 pm ET.

1. **Is there any precedent with the DD Council where one could use this NCCDD grant to help satisfy some of the goals and objectives for another, separate NCCDD grant?**

**Answer**: No. Each grant award has its own goals, objectives, and deliverables. It is expected that the grantee will meet the demands of this grant for the federal funds that are allocated towards this effort separately from any other award.

1. **Regarding number of people w/ I/DD employed by the end of year three: Is the expectation that 75 to 100 people will remain employed? Is the expectation that 75 to 100 people will be hired?**

**Answer**: The intent of this RFA is to increase employment for individuals with I/DD and family members with lived experiences to become employed in leadership roles across the state. Data collection must be implemented to track how many people (the majority being individuals with I/DD) are employed and where. The total count at the end of the third year of the contract will include all individuals who were employed in leadership roles even if they were not able to maintain employment.

1. **Do all of the employment opportunities have to be long-term, sustainable leadership roles to be included in total numbers that will be reported in years 2 and 3 of this grant?**

**Answer:** All people with I/DD and family members with lived experiences who obtain employment in a paid leadership role through this initiative’s efforts can be included in the reporting and data collection for this grant.

1. **Is there any representative involved in this project or a formal way for the project lead to connect with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) to support project activities?**

**Answer**: No. There is no requirement to partner with NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (NC DVRS) to be a successful applicant for this RFA. If you wish to include a partnership with NC DVRS for the purposes of responding to this Request for Applications, NCDDD recommends for you to discuss with NC DVRS in advance of submitting your application or, alternatively, including efforts that the organization will engage in to partner with NC DVRS during Year(s) 1, 2, and/or 3. NCCDD staff will work, once the contract is awarded, to support the successful applicant to establish necessary relationships with NC DVRS to incorporate services and supports they provide, should those linkages be supportive and needed.

1. **How do you define employed Is part-time or hourly considered employed?**

**Answer**: For the purposes of this RFA, part-time, full-time, and hourly employment are considered employment as long as the employment is both competitive and integrated.

1. **What does the “leadership” in “leadership role” mean to the NCCDD?**

**Answer**: For the purposes of this RFA, the NCCDD defines leadership as a paid role in the I/DD services system. These roles would include any competitive and integrated employment role where an individual with I/DD or their family member with lived experiences is assisting others with I/DD or are in roles that influence policy and systems change.

1. **Beyond *Care Extender*-type positions, are there any other positions that have been made accessible in state offices for adults with I/DD?**

**Answer**: There are many paid leadership positions across the state that include, but are not limited to, *Care Extender-*type positions. The successful applicant will collaborate with many agencies that can include, but are not limited to: care coordination organizations, schools, advocacy organizations, LME/MCOs, DMH/DD/SUS, and service providers. The successful applicant will also champion employment for individuals with I/DD and family members in the developmental disability systems that do not currently employ individuals with I/DD.

1. **Is the intended employment target for this RFA transition-aged youth? Is there a preferred type of employment that should be targeted? Are we to include only Care Extenders or is it also ok to target other types of work instead?**

**Answer:** The intended population for this RFA is not limited to just transition-aged youth. The intent of this RFA is to increase competitive, integrated employment among all individuals with I/DD and family members with lived experiences in leadership roles in the I/DD services system. See the answer to question 11 for more details about employment types to focus on for this initiative.