



Target Outcomes FY-09 Funding Cycle

Numbers reflect the number of the outcome in the NJCDD State Plan.

Please read the description of activity and purpose under each before submitting your Letter of Interest.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meetings will take place January 14 and 15, 2009. Locations will be announced on the Council Web site by January 5 or you may call 609-292-3745.

A. Unaddressed Outcomes [#s 7A and 47]

The council is expressly seeking effort on two unaddressed outcomes this cycle. Applications to operate projects addressing *either* of these may be reviewed separately from the overall grant cycle proposals received.

These two unaddressed outcomes are as follows.

Outcome 7A New Jersey's excessive rate of special education classification and segregated placement of African-American and non-English speaking students is mitigated through education and training of parents and professionals.

FY-2009 Focus: Training for parents to be better advocates on behalf of their children has been in place for some time. What seems to be required is an activity to bring the professional and administrative components into line with best practices in the field of education, and inclusive education.

The Council is specifically seeking proposed activity which will build or enhance the capacity *and determination* of school professionals to make systemic changes in the process of outplacement and segregated placement for this population. Proposals which focus on replicatable and sustainable systemic change within the overall school system in NJ will be given high consideration.

Proposals which provide training only, with no dissemination process and no component for building the capacity and determination of school personnel to make systemic changes will *not* be considered.

Background: The issue of overrepresentation of minority and non-English-speaking students in special education persists in NJ despite a longstanding initiative between the NJ Department of Education and the US Office on Civil Rights and New York University Equity Assistance Center. There has been insufficient information to determine the effectiveness or outcomes of this initiative, but there is reason to believe that disproportional classification of these students and outplacement to "special" classes continues to take place at a greater pace than the national average.

Outcome 47 People with developmental disabilities have access to supports, programs and services that promote inclusion and independence throughout their life span.

FY-2009 Focus: For this grant cycle, activity under this outcome will focus on underserved communities. The council is seeking proposals with emphasis on minority, ethnic and non-English-speaking communities. Specifically:

- Activity which proposes outreach to these communities must also incorporate investigation, reporting and discussion on the location, extent, and process by which the members of these communities with developmental disabilities and their families now get supports and services;
- Activity must look at, assess and incorporate the “natural” conduits of information and assistance within each community;
- Activity must recommend and test best practice strategies and methods by which mainstream services and supports can be introduced and made available to these communities;
- Finally, the activity and end product (if any) must be clear and easily capable of replication by existing ethnic and minority community organizations.

Background: The essence of this overall outcome is recognition of the fact that people learn throughout their lifetimes and that families and individuals with developmental disabilities require on-going access to supports and services as they move through various stages of their lives.

It is apparent that New Jersey has seen unprecedented global immigration, along with which comes a population of people with developmental disabilities who are served (or not served) within the confines of an ethnic community’s traditional and typical support systems. The state/federal resources and services for which these people may be eligible are often not accessed, for a variety of reasons.

It is essential that systemic resources and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families are made available and applied within the various ethnic and minority communities. However, it is not always necessary that services be delivered as done currently within our service system. The NJCDD believes that outreach to these communities in New Jersey has been lagging. NJCDD is looking for focused effort during the next grant cycle to determine the process in place within these communities and where (and how) the traditional delivery system can collaborate to ensure people with DD in those communities are not left behind.

B. FY-2009 Grant Cycle Targeted Outcomes

Outcome 8 The Council and its constituents continue to collaborate with housing advocacy groups so that accessible, affordable housing is available to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

FY-2009 Focus: The council seeks to acquire information on, and to test, alternative housing options. Examples might be unconventional pairing, house sharing, natural supports, etc. The concept of a housing “navigator” within DD services was also raised though this is not a requirement.

Proposals which will be positively received will

- incorporate one or more existing community development or support organizations that are NOT specific to developmental disabilities but ARE specific to designing or coordinating generic in-home supports and services for a general population;
- build collaborative efforts between agencies, funding streams, families, individuals and communities;
- make use of existing acquisition resources - NOT making use of Council funds (if acquisition is a part of the proposal); and
- provide a practical and effective model for replication as well as a fully developed report or article which can be effectively used for on-going dissemination and collaboration.

Applicants may propose using a portion of their requested funds to cover the cost of a third party follow along analysis and report if applicant is not experienced in policy-level analysis.

Discussion: Housing in NJ is out of control, despite recent drops in price as a result of the mortgage crisis. Owning and maintaining a home requires a significant income and asset level, as does renting all but the most basic of apartments. While people with DD on Social Security cannot afford even a single bedroom apartment on their own, there are many people in the state with a similar problem. Accessibility is an issue for people with DD, aging Boomers, and others with disabilities or special needs. Affordability is an issue for all groups - there are many “silos” in housing.

The council is aware that acquiring real estate and infrastructure is not the real barrier to building greater community capacity for people with developmental disabilities in NJ. The lack of operating funds to cover staffing and support remains the single greatest barrier. In addition, supports and services which affect an individual’s ability to live in the greater community (such as personal assistant services, transportation, etc.) remain truncated.

Outcome 15 Children and adults with developmental disabilities have access to comprehensive health care coverage and services.

FY-2009 Focus: The NJCDD is seeking proposals for activity which will:

- identify the elements of information and awareness required for any patient when arranging and following up on his/her medical care; and
- develop and test a model for assisting individuals with DD in acquiring, assembling and recalling this information as needed; and
- develop a process for disseminating this model to professionals, families and individuals in the field; and
- test this dissemination for efficacy.

Discussion The requirement that each person have a good knowledge and awareness of his or her personal health needs has become more important for everyone. With the shifting away from long-term, family-centric doctors, patients need to bring their own knowledge of their health issues with them from visit to visit. This applies to p/w/dd and their care givers as well. The medical sector is responsive overall, but requires pro-active advocacy to ensure people receive appropriate, accessible care when they need it.

Education and awareness efforts targeting health care providers have been in place for some time. There is a lingering need for people with DD and their families to be prepared for their medical visits and aware of their medical concerns.

Outcome 23 Where transportation is unavailable or inadequate for Individuals with developmental disabilities, feeder and local transportation businesses are initiated, tested and supported.

FY-2009 Focus: Proposals which address transportation needs in a global, systemic and effective manner will be welcome. Proposals which provide a collaborative effort at the county or regional level will be highly welcome. In addition, proposals which offer to test non-traditional transportation services (such as consumer-operated transportation services) will be welcome.

Proposals which address only the transportation needs of a few specific individuals or for only a specific group of people with developmental disabilities will NOT be considered. Services which should be funded through existing mechanisms but are not, will not be funded, though a systemic advocacy effort to get such funding released or increased may be of interest. Also, the Council is NOT in a position to fund major transportation initiatives or support new bus or rail routes in the state.

Discussion Building on the “Modified Fixed Route” model developed by the council’s Union and Warren transportation projects, it was hoped that a) counties would begin to replicate this process to build greater expanses of public accessible transportation, and b) that additional, unique ways of combining the various transportation resources within the human services systems would be proposed by applicants.

The issue of “transportation on demand” needs to be addressed in an effective, realistic, systemic and economically feasible way, which is not happening at the moment. Concerns about transportation and mobility are not those of people with DD alone, but affect a good portion of the state’s residents. Collaboration is required.

Outcome 30 People with developmental disabilities and their families receive person-centered supports and services, including tools and strategies, consistent with the principles of self-direction and personal choice.

NOTE: This is admittedly a very general outcome, designed to incorporate the council's philosophy regarding the delivery of services and supports, as well as the desire for exploration of new ways for sustaining supports and services. As a result, the Council determines a focus within this outcome each grant cycle.

FY-2009 Focus: For this grant cycle the council has two distinct elements of person-centered planning and supports in mind. Applicants should view these as two individual activities, requiring separate proposals.

Applicants do not need to propose activity in both areas.

A : Activity which will address clear, meaningful information delivery, personal planning strategies, and support management tools in ways which can be easily applied by individual/family in directing and facilitating person-centered supports.

Specifically, the council is looking for activity which will develop, assemble and present an informative workshop (and resources) directed to parents and consumers wherein they are aware of and able to assemble resources, supports and services for meeting personal support needs. The presentation must openly address the reality of services provided or directed through the NJ DDD and methods for individuals/families to work effectively within those very real limitations. Since there may be potential resources not necessarily directed through NJ DDD, the activity should also address non-traditional or non-DDD supports which may be effectively applied by families/individuals.

Discussion

The advent of individualized planning and delivery has resulted in positive delivery systems like Real Life Choices and Family Support. However, these programs suffer from three serious problems: a) lack of a consistent and accepted assessment tool for eligibility or to define and detail personal needs, b) lack of funding re-direct from congregate and traditional delivery systems to allow for expansion at levels known to be needed currently and in the immediate future, and c) inconsistent information for the *educated consumers* (parents and individuals) who must now make critical decisions about supports and services with little or no clear guidelines.

There is a need for the service delivery system for people with DD in NJ to be transparent; parents, families and individuals respond better to fund-limited services if they are aware up front of those limitations rather than being assured services will be there when they need them. Case management and intake professionals need to be more responsive to, and facile with, current needs and future demand, and be in a position to provide real time information to families seeking services and supports.

Supports and services which are capable of meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families do exist outside of the DD service system. Parents and consumers need to be independently aware of resources, supports and services which are not always directed by, or specific to, the NJ Div. of DD. Parents and consumers need to have clear and realistic appraisal of the availability of various supports in order to make informed decisions about the direction of their life plans for the individual with DD.

B : Activity which will explore and test alternative means of generating renewable resources for providers with which to fund services and supports to target populations.

Specifically, the Council is looking to invest in the development and testing of sources of renewable, non-traditional revenues (income) which operate independently of the traditional funding streams and the political system. Activity should provide opportunity for individual consumers of services to fully participate, but is not required to do so. Activity should be specific to generating operating revenue for service delivery and support systems and not a generalized expansion of existing services.

Discussion

An additional element is that providers need to be in a position to offer services and support independently of State budget constraints or political windfalls. Providers need to explore and test alternative means of generating renewable revenue with which to fund services and supports to their target populations. Such sources need to be independent of the traditional disability, social service funding streams, renewable by definition and independent of legislative or political action.

BOTH A and B : Compilations of existing “best practices” are only acceptable **IF** those are reworked to be relevant to NJ’s system and are tested in a real life scenario as part of the proposal. Applicants may propose using a portion of their requested funds to cover the cost of a third party follow along analysis and report if applicant is not experienced in policy-level analysis.