

Cycle 47 Program Development Grants (PDG)

Background:

In order to improve and increase services for Californians with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council/SCDD) provides grants each federal fiscal year (FFY) to community-based organizations.

Program Development Grants (PDG) are used by the Council to meet federal and state mandates and provide resources to build new and innovative programs and services. The Council issues Requests for Proposals (RFP) to stakeholders throughout California, asking community-based organizations to submit project proposals for innovative project ideas that will demonstrate new or better ways to provide supports, services, and training for people with disabilities (Pw/DD), their families, and those who serve them.

These grants have become an important part of the Council's State Plan strategy to create change in systems that provide services and supports to Pw/DD and their families throughout California.

February 15th: The State Plan Committee (SPC) reviewed the identified gaps, issues and recommendations from SCDD staff and Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP) members and selected specific RFP focus areas. After focus areas were selected, the SPC directed staff to draft detailed RFP descriptions that outlined the scope of the RFP options.

March 12th: SPC reviewed staff's RFP descriptions, selected 3 RFP descriptions, and directed staff to provide edited drafts of both Self-Advocacy RFP descriptions to SSAN, the Self-Advocacy DEAP, and SAAC for further review and final staff edits.

March 14th: Further review of both Self-Advocacy RFP descriptions was completed by members of the SSAN leadership and the Self-Advocacy DEAP members; after staff edits, based on review and recommendations, the 2 Self-Advocacy RFP descriptions were forwarded to SAAC, for an informal review, and to the Council for its final consideration and approval.

Important Information:

March 19th: Council approval of Cycle 47 RFP descriptions

March 22nd: Launch the Cycle 47 RFP

March 28th: Cycle 47 Bidders' Conference Call

May 10th: Deadline for Proposal Application Submissions

FFY Period: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Available Funding: \$300,000

Focus areas:

State Plan Committee (SPC) reviewed and selected 3 RFP descriptions for Program Development Grant (PDG) Cycle 47:

1. Self-Advocacy (Plain Language)
2. Self-Advocacy (Isolation and Loneliness)
3. Health (Tribal)

**State Plan Committee
Recommendation(s):**

Recommend Council review and acceptance of RFP descriptions, as submitted



3831 N. Freeway Boulevard, Suite 125

Sacramento, CA 95834

Phone: (916) 263-7919

Fax: (916) 263-7963

e-mail: council@scdd.ca.gov

webpage: www.scdd.ca.gov

SELF-ADVOCACY (Plain Language)

For federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025, the Council has designated a total amount of \$300,000 to fund Cycle 47 projects in one or more of the following proposed topic areas: Health (Tribal), Self-Advocacy (Plain Language), and Self-Advocacy (Isolation). The Council understands that the final list of approved grant projects may not address all three (3) of the targeted topic areas. The Council will consider all proposal submissions and choose one (1) or more grant-funded projects that will not exceed the full \$300,000 budgeted amount.

Below, please find the Council's brief description for the Self-Advocacy (Plain Language) option.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PDG) CYCLE 47

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DUE: May 10, 2024

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is invested in ensuring that all Californians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families are provided with publicly accessible, plain language information about available supports, services, and other important resources and issues. Through anecdotal data, SCDD staff reports, and general observation, the Council has recognized that commonly available public information is not consistently provided in plain language or in accessible formats for culturally, linguistically, or cognitively diverse populations of people with I/DD (PwI/DD) and other disabilities and/or their families/support persons.

The Council is seeking a grantee to develop a comprehensive, accessible, culturally relevant project that will market the value of plain language, public-facing information

and inform and teach PwI/DD, their families and other advocates on how to convert hard-copy and/or web-based information, documents, curricula, resources, etc. into accessible, plain language formats. The capacity-building project will include an employment/micro-business preparation component, so that trained PwI/DD, their family members, and other advocates have the necessary tools, methodology, and mechanisms to use and market their skills in providing auditing and editing for accessibility and plain language content. Finally, in support of sustainability, the grantee will disseminate the project curriculum and materials, findings (e.g. promising/best practices, detailed recommendations, outcomes and impacts), and resources to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and partners invested in the project's outcomes and deliverables.

SCDD is interested in funding a project that will:

1. Develop a replicable marketing tool, by creating or using existing information, to educate the public, public/private entities, and those who support and serve people with I/DD about the importance of using culturally appropriate, inclusive plain language when creating content for the public (e.g. marketing materials, webpages, informational materials, etc.).
2. Create a 'how-to' guide for public/private entities to convert industry-specific terminology into a plain language format that produces functional language that can be understood by individuals with low literacy levels.
3. Develop a pilot group/demonstration model for people with I/DD and their families who are interested in applying their skills and knowledge (associated with converting web-based and/or hard-copy information into accessible, plain language formats) to obtain employment and/or develop micro-businesses
 - a. Provide evidence-based information, training (e.g. <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/2023-series-of-easy-read-plain-language-webinars-for-government-and-non-profit-agencies/>), guidance/technical assistance (TA), and resources about plain language conversion to a cohort of PwI/DD and other disabilities and their families
 - b. Collect public/private industry examples of content to convert to plain language as examples, for training and demonstration purposes
 - c. Provide a training/TA component that educates people with I/DD and their family members about competitive, integrated employment and/or micro-business options to link their plain language skill sets to gainful employment opportunities

4. Identify effective, replicable mechanisms by which the Council, its regional staff, and collaborative partners may:
 - a. Continue to provide culturally competent, plain language information, training, resources; and
 - b. Provide technical assistance/support to PwI/DD and other disabilities, their families, and others throughout the state in converting material into accessible, plain language formats; and
 - c. Assist PwI/DD and their families in leveraging their skills into employment and/or micro-business opportunities; and
 - d. Disseminate resources, information, and a toolkit/guide to support employment or micro-business efforts to translate materials into accessible, plain language formats
5. Develop and provide a comprehensive report detailing the methods, resources, findings and specific recommendations associated with the development, implementation, outcomes, deliverables, and actual impact(s), including anecdotes and success stories, for this project

The project will serve as a replicable model by developing and identifying innovative, promising and/or best practices in and/or barriers to reaching, serving and educating PwI/DD, their families, professionals and others that serve and support them in culturally appropriate, accessible ways.

The project grantee will:

- ✓ Have demonstrated knowledge about I/DD and other disabilities, including needs and issues associated with low literacy and comprehension levels
- ✓ Have experience and cultural competence in reaching and collaborating with PwI/DD and other disabilities, their families, and those entities/professionals that support and serve them, including those in underserved populations and/or regions of California
- ✓ Have demonstrated experience and cultural competence in developing and providing developmentally appropriate, quality, accessible information, training, services, and/or resources to PwI/DD and other disabilities and their families
- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of the employment needs of families and individuals with I/DD and other disabilities

- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of outreach principles associated with reaching culturally, economically, ethnically, geographically, linguistically, and other diverse, underserved populations
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the concepts of self-advocacy, supported decision-making, and employment opportunities within fully inclusive environments

Priority will be given to projects that are led or co-led by people with I/DD and lived experiences and are focused on culturally, ethnically, geographically, economically and linguistically diverse, underserved populations (e.g., Black/African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, etc., in addition to low-income, bilingual or non-English-speaking, inner city and/or deeply rural populations, those who are unhoused or in licensed/foster care settings, and/or those from Native/Tribal communities) in urban and/or rural settings throughout the state.

For more information and to download all forms for Cycle 47, please visit our website <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>

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SELF-ADVOCACY (Isolation & Loneliness)

For federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025, the Council has designated a total amount of \$300,000 to fund Cycle 47 projects in one or more of the following proposed topic areas: Health (Tribal), Self-Advocacy (Plain Language), and Self-Advocacy (Isolation). The Council understands that the final list of approved grant projects may not address all three (3) of the targeted topic areas. The Council will consider all proposal submissions and choose one (1) or more grant-funded projects that will not exceed the full \$300,000 budgeted amount.

Below, please find the Council's brief description for the Self-Advocacy (Isolation) option.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PDG) CYCLE 47

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DUE: May 10, 2024

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is invested in ensuring that all Californians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) have opportunities for accessible interactions with their peers and others in meaningful ways. Through anecdotal data, SCDD staff reports, and general observation, the Council has recognized that interactive activities for culturally, linguistically, or cognitively diverse populations of people with I/DD (PwI/DD) and other disabilities are not consistently available throughout California. Additionally, the recent pandemic only heightened widespread gaps, losses, and interruptions in services, supports, and programs that would promote interactive communication and activities, creating an increased sense of isolation and loneliness in individuals with disabilities.

Furthermore, individuals with I/DD may experience barriers in expressing and experiencing successful, meaningful social interactions and activities.

The Council is seeking a grantee to develop a comprehensive, accessible, culturally relevant project to reduce social isolation and loneliness that will assist PwI/DD and other disabilities to develop or improve social skills, identify and develop their interests and hobbies, and locate or create opportunities to engage meaningfully with their peers/communities.

The project will focus on evidence-based best and/or promising practices, with an emphasis on sustainability. All materials, mechanisms, resources, deliverables, and contacts will be provided to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and partners invested in the project's outcomes and deliverables.

SCDD is interested in funding a project to develop a replicable program to reduce loneliness and isolation for PwI/DD and other disabilities, which will:

1. Identify and address barriers to effective social interactions and activities for PwI/DD
2. Identify, develop, or adapt/enhance curricula to provide accessible, culturally appropriate, inclusive information and training for people with I/DD and other disabilities, including those who are non-verbal or have limited communication, to improve social skills and communication and encourage positive engagement and interaction with peers and others within their own communities
3. Collaborate with diverse groups of self-advocates (PwI/DD) to build a toolkit, resources, curricula, etc. in plain language to assist individuals with disabilities to identify their own unique areas of interest, and explore community-based opportunities to find existing and/or develop new options for social and activity-based interactions and activities
4. Provide training and technical assistance (TA) to PwI/DD and other disabilities and others who wish to use the toolkit and other resources establish activities, projects and/or programs to address isolation and loneliness within their communities and regional or statewide catchment areas
5. Develop and provide a comprehensive report detailing the methods, resources, findings and specific recommendations associated with the development, implementation, outcomes, deliverables, and actual impact(s), including anecdotes and success stories, for this project. This will include identifying effective mechanisms by which the Council and its collaborative partners may continue to provide culturally competent, plain language information, training, resources, and technical assistance around developing and sustaining meaningful opportunities to reduce isolation and loneliness for PwI/DD and other disabilities.

The project will serve as a replicable model by developing and identifying innovative, promising and/or best practices in and/or barriers to reaching, serving and facilitating meaningful interactions for PwI/DD and others in natural settings and activities that support them in culturally appropriate, accessible ways.

The project grantee will:

- ✓ Have demonstrated knowledge about I/DD and issues that affect those with disabilities
- ✓ Have experience and cultural competence in reaching and collaborating with PwI/DD and other disabilities, their families, and those entities/professionals that support and serve them, including those in underserved populations and/or remote, diverse regions of California
- ✓ Have demonstrated experience and cultural competence in developing and providing developmentally/age-appropriate, quality, accessible information, services, and/or resources to PwI/DD and other disabilities
- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of the interactive and communication needs of families and individuals with I/DD and other disabilities
- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of outreach principles associated with reaching culturally, economically, ethnically, geographically, linguistically, and other diverse, underserved populations
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the concepts of self-advocacy, self-determination, supported decision-making, and interactive opportunities within fully inclusive environments

Priority will be given to projects that are led or co-led by people with I/DD and lived experiences and are focused on culturally, ethnically, geographically, economically and linguistically diverse, underserved populations (e.g., Black/African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, etc., in addition to low-income, bilingual or non-English-speaking, inner city and/or deeply rural populations, those who are unhoused or in licensed/foster care settings, and/or those from Native/Tribal communities) in urban and/or rural settings throughout the state.

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HEALTH (Tribal)

For federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025, the Council has designated a total amount of \$300,000 to fund Cycle 47 projects in one or more of the following proposed topic areas: Employment, Health and Safety, and Self-Advocacy. The Council understands that the final list of approved grant projects may not address all of the targeted topic areas. The Council will consider all proposal submissions and choose one (1) or more grant-funded projects that will not exceed the full \$300,000 budgeted amount.

FFY 2025's RFP will contain four (4) project options from which to choose: one (1) in Employment, two (2) in Health (Tribal and CalAIM), and one (1) in Self-Advocacy. Below, please find the Council's brief description for the Tribal Health option.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PDG) CYCLE 47 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

DUE: May 10, 2024

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is invested in ensuring that all Californians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families have an opportunity to receive quality, accessible health-related information, training, services, and/or resources. SCDD recognizes that Tribal communities have historically been underserved, including those people with intellectual, developmental (PwI/DD) and/or other disabilities and their families.

SCDD is seeking a grantee to actively engage with Tribal health organizations and other collaborative partners in California to provide plain language materials, outreach, and training opportunities to connect Native Americans with critical information about developmental milestones, disabilities, early diagnosis/intervention, and health-related supports and services.

SCDD is interested in funding a project that will:

1. Identify and foster key partnerships with Tribal, public and private entities to partner in providing culturally sensitive outreach to Native American individuals and families with I/DD and/or other disabilities
2. Develop and/or use existing, fully accessible and culturally sensitive, plain language, I/DD-related training curricula, information, and outreach materials and resources about health-related topics, as they relate specifically to people and families with I/DD
3. Develop and provide culturally sensitive outreach, partnering opportunities and training to Tribal health entities and personnel about 2 or more of the following, as they relate to people and families with I/DD: 1) maternal health; 2) developmental milestones; 3) intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities; 4) the importance of early identification, intervention, and service access; 5) healthy aging; 6) fully accessible, plain language resources; and, 7) entitlement and generic services available to individuals and families with intellectual/developmental and other disabilities
4. Provide technical assistance, as requested by professionals, PwI/DD and other disabilities and their families, about accessing health-related information, resources, services, and/or training
5. Identify mechanisms by which the Council and its collaborative partners may provide culturally competent, health-related outreach, information, training, resources and technical assistance/support to PwI/DD and other disabilities, their families, regional centers and other disability-related agencies, current and potential providers, and others throughout the state.

The project will serve as a replicable and/or scalable model by developing and identifying innovative, promising and/or best practices in reaching, serving and educating Native American PwI/DD and other disabilities, their families, and those Tribal and health-related entities providing services in culturally appropriate, accessible ways.

The project grantee will:

- ✓ Have demonstrated experience and cultural competence in collaborating with Tribal members, governing Councils, and health entities
- ✓ Have demonstrated experience and cultural competence in developing and providing quality, accessible health-related information, training, services, and/or resources

- ✓ Research and consider building on previous grant projects, deliverables and/or partnerships in development of this project
- ✓ Have demonstrated experience collaborating with and providing training for health-related professionals/entities
- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of disabilities and the needs of families and individuals with I/DD and other disabilities
- ✓ Demonstrate a broad understanding of principles associated with reaching culturally, economically, ethnically, geographically, linguistically, and other diverse, underserved populations

Collaboration with and acceptance within diverse communities of Indigenous People are both critical components of this effort. Priority will be given to projects that are: 1) supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Tribal Health Agency; and, 2) led or co-led by individuals from Native/Tribal communities, people with I/DD and lived experiences, and those that are focused on culturally, ethnically, geographically, economically and linguistically diverse, underserved populations (e.g. low-income, bilingual or non-English-speaking, inner city and/or deeply rural populations, those who are unhoused or in licensed/foster care settings,) and in reservation, urban and/or rural settings throughout the state.

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