



# Independent Facilitator Grant Application



North State Office

Far Northern Regional Center

## **General Overview**

The Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) received funds to support the implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP). These funds will be used to maximize the ability of SDP participants to direct their own lives. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), SDAC, and Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) identified priority areas of funding including the recruitment and training of Independent Facilitators (IF). Through this funding, the SDAC is offering recruitment and training of IFs to support several individuals with developmental disabilities, supported by FNRC, to live productive lives as welcomed members of their community.

The Independent Facilitator Grant offers up to 16 grants in the amount of \$2,000 each. The grant funds support costs including, but not limited to:

- Person centered thinking training
- Training materials
- Travel expenses related to training within a 500 mile radius
- Lodging
- Mileage reimbursement and per diem
- Technology equipment
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Workshops/trainings related to IF and individuals with developmental disabilities
- Fingerprinting and background check expenses

## **Roles of an Independent Facilitator**

Participants in the SDP may choose someone to help them implement their program. That person is called an Independent Facilitator (IF). IFs are selected and directed by the participant and provide facilitation and assistance.

IFs, as defined in Welfare & Institutions (W&I) Code §4685.8(c)(2) are people who are selected and directed by the participant and who are able to provide assistance in the following ways:

- Assisting the individual with making informed decisions regarding their individual budget
- Locating, accessing and coordinating services and supports consistent with the participant's Individual Program Plan (IPP)
- Identifying immediate and long-term needs and developing options to meet those needs
- Leading, participating, and/or advocating on behalf of participants in the person-centered planning process and development of the IPP
- Obtaining identified services and supports

## **Requirements of an Independent Facilitator**

An individual who serves as an IF is required to receive training in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process, and, other responsibilities described above under “Roles of an Independent Facilitator.”

## **Grant Eligibility Criteria**

Individuals eligible to apply must be 18 years of age or older. In order to be a paid IF, individuals must not be providing any other service to the participant and cannot be an individual employed by an agency providing services to the participant. A spouse of a participant or parent of a minor participant cannot be a paid IF for their spouse or child; however, can be a paid IF for other individuals in SDP.

## **Application Process**

Complete the IF Grant Application and submit it to the SDAC at [sdpadvisory@farnorthernrc.org](mailto:sdpadvisory@farnorthernrc.org). Your application will be reviewed by the SDAC who will notify applicants by email on grant selections for funding within 30 days. The deadline to submit your application is the last day of every month.

## **Funding Process**

Successful applicants will be eligible to receive funding upon approval of the application. A portion of the funds can be advanced up to \$1,000.00 by submitting a written request detailing how the funds will be spent. If purchasing equipment, three bids are required along with a written request to the SDAC for approval. The remaining funds will be reimbursed to the recipient upon SDAC approval and will be paid in arrears. Funding will be available through March, 2024. Grant recipients will be required to submit IF Grant Progress and Expenditure Reports to the SDAC quarterly.

## **Questions**

If you have any questions regarding the IF grant application, please email [sdpadvisory@farnorthernrc.org](mailto:sdpadvisory@farnorthernrc.org).



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Far Northern Regional Center

### Applicant Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe your interest in becoming an Independent Facilitator. Identify your objectives.  
(maximum of 500 words)

2. Describe your experience working with people with developmental disabilities.  
(maximum of 500 words)

3. Describe your knowledge of the California's Self Determination Program.

4. How will funds be used and what are the timelines? If used for training, please identify the training needed.

5. Describe your experience developing and managing a budget.

6. How well do you know your community? Describe your experiences accessing available resources. (maximum 500 words)

7. Are you willing to coordinate services and negotiate rates based on an individual's interests and goals.

8. What counties are you willing to serve and what is the distance you are willing to travel?

9. How many individuals are you interested in supporting as an IF for FNRC's Self-Determination Program?

10. Describe your experience and knowledge of Person Centered Thinking (PCT) and/or Person Centered Planning (PCP). Please share your experiences related to PCT/PCP. (maximum 500 words)

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Applicant Signature

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Date