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South Carolina
Department of Disabilities
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TO: Executive Directors, DSN Boards Chief Financial Officers, Finance Directors, CEO's of Contract Service Providers, Case Manager Supervisors

FROM: Quincy Swygert, Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: May 26, 2023

SUBJECT: FY2024 *Special Projects* - Statewide Consumer/Family Support Networks Funding Available

As authorized in Title 44, Chapter 21, Section(s) 20-60 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) is announcing anticipated state funding in FY 2024 for Special Projects that will strengthen and expand statewide consumer/family support networks relevant to the mission of SCDDSN. Statewide non-profit organizations that are affiliates of national disability organizations are encouraged to submit proposals that will extend access to information about disabling conditions and relevant resources, offer outreach to non-English speaking people with disabilities/families, assist people with disabilities/families to connect with peers and support groups, improve the effectiveness of peer mentors and support groups, enhance individual/family self-advocacy, expand social/recreational opportunities for people with disabilities/families, provide visibility and organizational leadership for one or more disability groups and promote multi-organization linkages and collaboration.

Contingent upon available funds and past funding levels to an applicant organization, up to six (6) projects, \$25,000-\$65,000 each, will be funded through a competitive selection process (note: total funding for all awarded projects will be under \$250,000). Following selection, a SCDDSN grant will be issued. **All products produced, training provided, or interactions occurring as a result of awarded grant funds shall clearly and appropriately identify SCDDSN as the sponsor of the product, training, or interaction.**

Projects must be implemented and operational at the time of award, and services must be offered from August 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Non-profit organizations which meet the following criteria are eligible and encouraged to submit a proposal:

- Must be a statewide organization
- Must be the state affiliate of a national consumer/family support network
- Must lead a network of local/regional units
- Must target one or more disability populations served by SCDDSN
- Must not provide another direct or indirect service for populations served by SCDDSN
- Must not be on South Carolina Secretary of State's List of Suspended Charities or its Annual "Scrooge" List

Proposals must focus on efforts which:

- Complement but do not duplicate SCDDSN functions/services
- Extend access to information about disabling conditions and relevant resources
- Offer outreach to non-English speaking people with disabilities/families
- Assist people with disabilities/families to connect with peers and support groups
- Improve the effectiveness of peer mentors and support groups
- Enhance individual/family self-advocacy
- Expand social/recreational opportunities for people with disabilities/families
- Provide visibility and organizational leadership for one or more disability groups
- Promote multi-organization linkages and collaboration

The SCDDSN Special Projects Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in evaluating proposed projects:

- Clear and appropriate goal(s) and objectives
- Specific and appropriate implementation activities
- Scope and expected impact of the project
- Compatibility with SCDDSN mission and services
- Direct/indirect benefits to people with disabilities/families
- Adequate and justified budget; cost-effectiveness
- Capability to administer a SCDDSN contract

QUARTERLY REPORTING: Grantees must provide a concise report quarterly which includes an overview of services provided and a financial statement to DDSN Cost Analysis and the appropriate Program Division Area.

Applications must be received by Friday, July 21, 2023. Applications must be emailed with subject line State FY 24 Family Support Network Application to:

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